



Are We Willing to Live Under the Authority of the Bible?

Various Scriptures
March 4, 2018

II. The CHALLENGE to Biblical Authority

A “slip & slide” through history . . .

- 4th-15th Century Middle Ages: TRADITIONALISM
The CHURCH is our final authority.
- 16th C. Reformation: SOLA SCRIPTURA
The BIBLE is our final authority.
- 17th -20th C. Enlightenment/Modernism: RATIONALISM
HUMAN REASON is our final authority.
- 21st C. Post-Modernism: RELATIVISM, SUBJECTIVISM, PLURALISM
There is NO final authority.

III. RE-EMBRACING Biblical Authority

What’s it look like . . .

- An ongoing decision, based on the Gospel and lordship of Jesus, to HUMBLE yourself and live your life UNDER the authority of the Bible.
- A commitment to SEEK, TRUST and OBEY all that the Bible teaches, even when you don’t UNDERSTAND it and/or don’t LIKE it.
- A boldness to reject cultural IDEAS and TRENDS when they don’t line-up with the Bible’s clear teaching.

What if you’re not there yet . . .

- Go back to all we’ve covered so far. Explore your DOUBTS. Pursue answers to your QUESTIONS.
- READ and STUDY the Bible, asking God to GUIDE you.

What if you don’t or won’t . . .

Authority is a bad word in today’s world. We’ve all been taught to “Question Authority.” And yet the Bible makes an authoritative claim upon our lives. In the Bible, God commands us to live in certain ways, to do and not do certain things. So the question for each of us is “Are We Willing to Live Under the Authority of the Bible?”

Our Sola Scriptura Study So Far . . .

I. The CLAIM of Biblical Authority

- Just as the character of God determines the nature of Scripture, so the nature of Scripture determines its authority.
- If the Bible is God’s INSPIRED, INERRANT Word, then it is authoritative, because God is the ultimate authority.
- The FORMS of Scripture are authoritative.
(commands, laws, and precepts)
- Jesus’ APPEALS to Scripture as authoritative.
- Jesus says that OBEDIENCE to His authoritative commands is evidence of our LOVE for Him. (John 14:15)



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Growth Groups are the glue that hold our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to gracecentralcoast.org.

Living Life Together

Take time to connect, share life, joys and struggles as you come together as fellow followers of Jesus.

Digging Into God's Word & the Message Together

1. What is one thing you learned in this week's message? What is one way you were challenged by the message?
2. Read Isaiah 40:6-8, 55:6-11, 66:1-2. What do each of these passages say about God's Word and its authority?
3. The philosophical challenges to all authority beginning with the Enlightenment have been compounded by the practical challenges to authority as we've seen authority consistently abused and misused. Which do you think impacts the Bible's authority in our lives more?

4. Look again at Isaiah 66:1-2. What does it mean to "tremble" at God's Word? What does that look like?
5. Why is our submission to the authority of the Bible rooted in the Gospel and the Lordship of Jesus? In other words, why is our submission a Gospel "fruit"? See Matthew 28:18-20 and John 14:15.
6. Look closely and discuss together those three ideas about re-embracing Biblical authority under "What's it look like. . ." Where's the challenge for you personally here?

Praying Together

- With a humble and contrite spirit, together ask the Lord to help you grow in your "trembling" at His Word.
- Share and pray for one another's needs.