

Establishing Authority and God's Commands

A. God's commands:

1. God's commands are in His word (1 Cor. 2:10-16; 14:37). His word cannot be changed (Deut. 4:2; 1 Tim. 4:11; Rev. 22:18-19).
2. God has spoken through Jesus (Heb. 1:1-2; Matt. 17:5). We must obey Jesus (Heb. 5:9; cf. Gal. 6:2; 2 Th. 1:8; 2 Jn. 1:9).
 - a. Jesus commissioned the apostles (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16).
3. The apostles were ambassadors of Christ. God spoke through them (2 Cor. 5:20; cf. 1 Cor. 2:10-16; 1 Th. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).
 - a. God gave commands through the apostles (1 Cor. 14:37; 2 Pet. 3:2).
4. No one is excused from obeying God (Acts 17:30; Rom. 1:20).
 - a. God commands all men to repent (Acts 17:30).
5. We keep God's commandments because we love Him (1 Jn. 5:3).
6. We learn about keeping God's commandments in the Old Testament (Rom. 15:4; cf. 1 Cor. 10:6, 11; Gal. 3:25).

B. Three types of commands in the Bible: Specific, General, and a Combination of Specific and General

1. Specific commands include the specifics of carrying out the command. General commands do not include the specifics of carrying out the command.
 - a. Many commands include some specific aspects and some general aspects. In other words, God is specific about some parts of the command and general about other parts of the command.
 - b. When we have a specific command from God, we must obey God by accomplishing the command as specified by God.
 - c. When we have a general command from God, we must employ lawful expediencies to carry out the command.
2. **Gen. 6:13-22** Noah and the ark:
 - a. specifics:
 1. Gen. 6:14 ark, gopherwood, rooms, cover inside and outside with pitch
 2. Gen. 6:15 length, width (breadth), height
 3. Gen. 6:16 window finished to a cubit, door in the side, three decks
 4. Gen. 6:21 take food for people and animals
 - b. generalities:
 1. Gen. 6:14 make, size of rooms, formula to produce the pitch
 2. Gen. 6:16 the exact size of the window, which side the door was to go in, the height between decks

3. Gen. 6:21 what kind and how much food
- c. Noah had to:
 1. employ the specifics of God's command.
 2. make lawful choices (i.e., employ lawful expediencies) to fulfill the general aspects of God's command.
3. **Gen. 22:1-19** God tests Abraham:
 - a. specifics:
 1. Gen. 22:2 son, Isaac, Moriah, burnt offering, a mountain told him by God
 - b. generalities:
 1. Gen. 22:2 take, go, offer
 - c. Abraham had to:
 1. employ the specifics of God's command.
 2. make lawful choices (i.e., employ lawful expediencies) to fulfill the general aspects of God's command.
4. Questions:
 - a. What is faith as demonstrated by Noah and Abraham (Heb. 11:7, 17-20)? Compare your answer to Hebrews 11:1-3, 8; Romans 10:17; 6:17.
 - b. What things could not be changed if Noah and Abraham were to obey God?
 - c. What did Noah and Abraham have to do to complete the generalities of God's command?
 1. Give examples of **lawful** choices (i.e., lawful expediencies) Noah and Abraham could have employed to fulfill the general aspects of God's command.
 2. Give examples of **unlawful** choices (i.e., unlawful expediencies) Noah and Abraham could not have employed to fulfill the general aspects of God's command.
 - d. Give secular examples of people communicating to each other with specific and general commands:
 1. government to citizen (e.g., laws):
 2. employer to employee:
 3. parent to child:
 4. teacher to student: