

## The Nature of Bible Authority

### Introduction:

- A. a preacher told me, “We do lots of things without Bible authority!”
- B. This is an example of the misunderstanding many brethren have of the nature of biblical authority. They think a practice must be specifically mentioned in the Bible to be authorized by the Bible.

1. institutional brethren: “We do lots of things without Bible authority.”

2. no Bible class brethren:

*There is not one verse in all the Bible that says one word about dividing an assembly into two or more classes with teachers teaching at the same time... (E.H. Miller, “Proof Cups & Classes Are Not Scriptural.” 5).*

C. Proposition: Bible authority is both exclusive and inclusive.

### I. Definition of Proposition

- A. Exclusive: Anything the Lord does not authorize, He excludes.
- B. Inclusive: What the Lord authorizes includes what is necessary and incidental to fulfilling the authorized action.
- C. Note
  - 1. A thing may be authorized although not specifically mentioned.
  - 2. A thing may be unscriptural and sinful although not specifically condemned.

### II. Proof of Proposition

- A. Bible authority is exclusive. - Colossians 3:17; 2 John 9
- B. Bible authority is inclusive. - Mark 16:15; Acts 8:30-31; 13:4 (How shall we “go”?)

### III. Application of Proposition

- A. Material of Ark: Gopher Wood - Genesis 6:14-16
- B. Music in Worship: Singing - Ephesians 5:18-19
- C. Organization of Church: Independent Local Congregation - 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-2

### Conclusion:

- A. The proposition is sustained: Bible authority is both exclusive and inclusive.
- B. This answers the two common fallacies:
  - 1. institutional: Everything not specifically condemned is all right.
  - 2. no Bible class: Everything not specifically mentioned is unauthorized.
- C. Will you not be content to walk in this path? - Jeremiah 6:16