

Church Authority

By

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If it is From Heaven

- **It must originate with God**
 - **God is the source of all truth (Jas. 1:17-18)**
 - **God has spoken to man in different ways (Heb. 1:1) – now through Christ (Heb. 1:2)**

If it is From Heaven

- **It must come through Christ**
 - **He has all authority**
(Matt. 28:18)
 - **Jesus is head of church**
(Eph. 1:20-23)

If it is From Heaven

- **It must come from Christ through His Apostles as they were guided by the Holy Spirit**
 - **The Holy Spirit was sent to guide the apostles into all truth (Jno. 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:13)**
 - **That truth is the Bible**
 - **Consider the chart**

God the Father



Jesus



Holy Spirit



Apostles

(Inspired by the Holy Spirit)



New Testament

If it is From Heaven

- To reject the apostles' teaching is to reject the teaching of God (I Jno. 4:6; Matt. 10:40)**

N.T. Teaches Us in Three Ways

I. Direct Command or Precept

I. A direct statement of something that must be or not be done

- Example: “repent and be baptized”
(Acts 2:38)**

N.T. Teaches Us in Three Ways

1. Direct Command or Precept

2. Approved Example

1. The practice of the church in the New Testament under the guidance of the apostles (I Cor. 4:16-17; Phil. 4:9)

- Example: must have more than one elder to oversee the church (Acts 14:23)**

N.T. Teaches Us in Three Ways

1. Direct Command or Precept

2. Approved Example

- **Not all are binding**
 - **Must be approved**
 - **Must be consistent**

N.T. Teaches Us in Three Ways

1. Direct Command or Precept

2. Approved Example

3. Necessary Inference or Implication

1. Something that is neither expressly stated nor specifically exemplified yet is necessarily implied or inferred.

- Example: Philip baptized the eunuch and not that the eunuch baptized Philip (Acts 8:38)**

N.T. Teaches Us in Three Ways

1. Scriptural? Yes! Used to decide the question of circumcision (Acts 15)

1. James argues from direct command (Acts 15:13-18)

2. Paul argues from Approved example (Acts 15:12)

3. Peter argues from Necessary inference (Acts 15:6-11)