

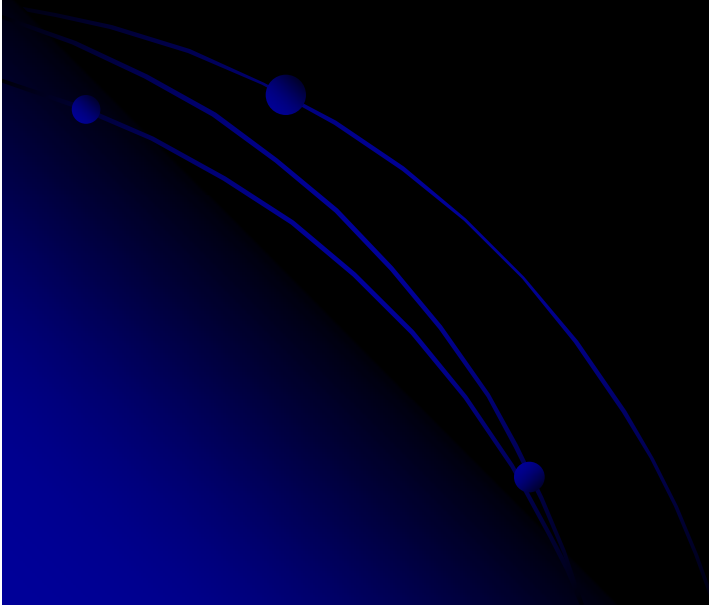
# A Submissive church

By

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## A Submissive church (1 Thess. 1:6)

- Hears Christ (Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1-2)
  - Obeys Christ (Heb. 5:8-9)
  - Yields to Christ's authority (Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17; 2 Jno. 9-10)
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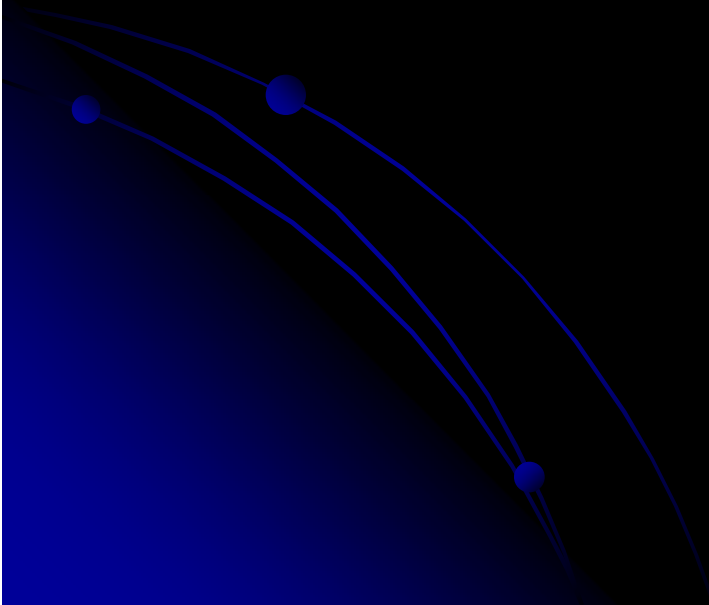
**Faithful gospel preachers have taught for years that we determine authority by:**

- 1. Direct Commandment**
  - 2. Approved Apostolic Example**
  - 3. Necessary Inference**
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*Determining authority by  
Command, Example & Inference  
Comes from Acts 15*

- In Acts 15, the question of being saved by the Law of Moses was settled by:
  - **Direct command (Acts 15:13-18)**
  - **Approved example (Acts 15:12)**
  - **Necessary inference (Acts 15:6-11)**

*These three ways are illustrated  
By the Lord's Supper*

- **Direct Command or Precept: The observance of the Lord's Supper.**
    - **“This do ... in remembrance of me” (I Cor. 11:25).**
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*These three ways are illustrated  
by the Lord's Supper*

- **Approved Example: The time of its observance**
  - **“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread” (Acts 20:7)**



*These three ways are illustrated  
By the Lord's Supper*

- **Necessary Inference or Implication: The frequency of its observance**
  - **“The first day of the week” (Acts 20:7)**
    - We infer that since the “first day of the week” comes once a week, we are to partake of the Lord's Supper every Sunday.

## *Authority is Inclusive or Exclusive*

- **Inclusive authority** includes all things necessary to accomplish what is authorized
  - We are commanded to worship (Jno. 4:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-34; Heb. 10:25)
    - All we need to worship: place, songbooks, communion trays, Bibles, rest rooms, drinking fountains, etc. are included in that command.

## *Authority is Inclusive or Exclusive*

- **Inclusive authority** includes all things necessary to accomplish what is authorized
  - The work of the church: **Benevolence** (Acts 2:45), **Evangelism** (1 Thess. 1:8) and **Edification** (Eph. 4:12)
    - All we need to carry out those commands are included.

## *Authority is Inclusive or Exclusive*

- **Exclusive authority** excludes all things except what is authorized by God
  - We worship by singing (Eph. 4:19; Col. 3:16).
    - If He would have said “music” then we could have included all kinds, but He specified singing, so if we do anything else we are going beyond this command (2 Jno. 9-10).

## *Authority is Inclusive or Exclusive*

- **Exclusive authority** excludes all things except what is authorized by God
  - We as a congregation are to work.
    - He has specified the work and the organization, the local church, through which we carry it out.
    - **To turn our work over to a human institution or engage in an organization larger than the local church is without authority.**

## *What we do must be expedient*

- Paul said, “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, **but not all things edify**” (1 Cor. 10:23)

