

Permission and Authority

Join me in a little scenario to make a point. You grant me permission to stay in your house while you are away for the week. When you come home, you discover that I have entertained fifty people at a party and we have made a mess of the place. I didn't like your furniture, so I sold it and went and bought other furniture. I thought that the outside of the house would look better if it was a different color so I painted it. After all, you gave me permission to use it. Upon your return you would understandably be angry with me. You liked the furniture, you didn't want that many people in your home at once and you were perfectly content with the color the outside was painted.

This story portrays a vivid truth: permission is not equated with full authority to do as one wishes. Your permission to use the house did not allow me to make any changes I wanted. I overstepped the bounds of that which your permission granted.

The same is true with biblical authority. God permits/authorizes us to do various things in worship. He authorizes us to sing, partake of the Lord's Supper, pray and learn through a spoken message. He does not give us "carte blanche" to do as we wish. There are limitations because the authority is limited. Permission does not give us license to do as we wish (Col. 3:17).

May we realize the limitations of His permission and authority. May we realize that we do not have the freedom to add to or take away from that which has been authorized. The fact that God did not tell us NOT to do something does not mean that He permits it. May we understand the limitations of His authority and remain in a proper relationship with Him by doing His will.

Sunday A.M. Sermon: "Authority and Permission (1)"

Introduction (1 Thes. 4:1-2)

1. God authorizes by direct statements

- A. "Command" is insufficient (Jno. 13:34-35; Rom. 6:1-2; Heb. 10:24-25; Jno. 4:24).
- B. Authority in the plan of salvation (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; Acts 17:30-31; Mk. 16:16; Rev. 2:10)
- C. Direct statements also limit (Matt. 5:17, 33-37; Eph. 5:28-29)

2. God authorizes through approved accounts of action

- A. Approved example (1 Pet. 2:21-22; 1 Cor. 10:11; Matt. 12:41; Acts 20:7; 18:4)
- B. We must determine their validity (James 1:27; 1 Tim. 5:16; Gal. 6:10)

P.M.: NT Survey: Luke (1)