

Study of Authority Part 5

INTRODUCTION:

1. In past lessons we have seen
 - a. Our need for Authority
 - b. The New Testament is Our Authority today.
 - c. How to Establish Authority
 - d. Generic and Specific Authority
 - e. Last Week we looked at the Silence of the Scriptures.
2. Today We want to look at Authority and Evangelism.

I. THE CHURCH IS TO ENGAGE IN THE WORK OF EVANGELISM

A. Authority For Such Work:

1. Established by a Direct Command Mark 16:15-16
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:15
 - b. The Church is the Pillar and ground of Truth.
2. An approved apostolic example.
 - a. The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Antioch Acts 11:22
 - b. The church at Philippi had fellowship with Paul in the Gospel. Phil. 1:3-5.
 - c. The church at Thessalonica "sounded out the word of the Lord" 1 Thes. 1:8

II. HOW THE CHURCH DID ITS WORK OF EVANGELISM:

A. Individuals went out. Acts 8:4; 9:22, 29

1. Each Christian has a responsibility to teach the word to the best of his ability and to increase his ability to teach. The emphasis in the New Testament is upon the individual, but the church as a unit (local church) has a responsibility apart from that of the individual.
2. In the local church there should be teaching designed to instruct and encourage personal evangelism.

B. The local church and evangelism.

1. How the church did this work.

- a. The local church supported a gospel preacher. 1 Cor. 9:14; 2 Cor. 11:8
 - 1) He may be supported while he preaches in that area, since he is worth his hire.
 - 2) The Local church may support a man while he preaches in another area.
 - a) Philippi had fellowship in the gospel with Paul. Phil. 1:3-5; 2:25; 4:15-18. They sent to Paul at Thessalonica (4:16) and at Rome.
 - 3) Several churches may support the same preacher 2 Cor. 11:8,9
 - a) Brethren in Macedonia supported Paul while he was at Corinth.
 - b) More than one church sent unto him.

2. Notice the Pattern:

- a. Things found in the pattern:
 - 1) Each church gave as it could.
 - 2) Each church sent directly to the preacher.
- b. Things not found in the pattern: chart #4
 - 1) No church ever sent money to another church for preaching. Directly to the preacher.
 - 2) No church ever sent money THROUGH another church for preacher.

3. Notice how some are doing it today: Many churches send to one church which is known as the "Sponsoring Church". The elders of this church oversee the work, select the preacher the field of work, while other churches furnish the money.

- a. The Bible speaks of no other organization but the New Testament Church!
- b. No church can function as a brotherhood agency in preaching the gospel.
- c. Each church bears the same responsibility to preach the gospel to the best of its ability.
- d. There is no authority either Generic or specific for a sponsoring Church in the work of evangelism. In absence of authority such an arrangement cannot be scriptural.

4. The Missionary Society and the Sponsoring Church.

- a. The Missionary Society is a perversion of organization.
 - 1) It is an organization apart from the church which exists without divine authority.
- b. The Sponsoring Church is a perversion of the function of the church.
 - 1) It does a brotherhood work (preaching the gospel) and oversees brotherhood funds.]
 - 2) God restricted the elders to the local church 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 20:28; 14:23
 - 3) The Sponsoring Church exists without divine authority thus cannot be scriptural.

CONCLUSION:

1. We have noted the church in the Apostolic days engaged in the work of Evangelism.

- a. The local church may support a gospel preacher.
- b. The local church may send out a man to preach in another place.
- c. Many churches may send to the same preacher.
- d. In the New Testament the church sent directly to the preacher. There was never another organization or Church in between.