

Authority



Perspectives on Authority

- **Parents: A boundary of Safety/Security.**
- **Protects from danger. Guides into success.**
- **Respect for authority is among the greatest gifts we can give to our children**
- **Foundation for success in:**
- **school, sports, employment, Serving God**
- **If they can't follow instructions will fail.**

Perspective on Authority

Infants initially see all authority as confining

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him. Pr. 22:15

But they must learn: **NO! DON'T! STOP!**

No one who refused to learn them can succeed.

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you. Ex. 20:12

Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction. Pr. 19:18

Simple Instructions

Remove foolishness from heart of child

Begin training in responsibility.

Pick up toys; Clean your room

Wash your hands. Look both ways.

Stay in the yard. Don't touch outlets

Don't talk to strangers

Some for protection; others success

If we can't get this: We fail & they fail!

Complex Instructions

Can't do unless we show them how.

Tie your shoe; button your shirt.

Write the Alphabet;

Read a book; Add, Subtract,

Multiply Divide

Only learn by example and imitation

If we don't show them ... will fail

Example and Imitation

Repetitive Instructions

First show by instruction, example, & imitation.
After they know, we use inferences like:

“The Bathroom’s dirty”

“Your shoe is untied”

“I’m waiting in the car;”

“The lawn needs mowing”

“Dinner is in fridge”

“Deposit is on the counter”

“Homework is on the desk”

Statements from which we expect them to infer a
previously learned set of instructions

If they can’t learn this ... We fail ... They will fail

The First Day

With a Teacher, Coach, Boss, Sergeant, etc.
Always the same.

1st they are told to do the simple instructions.

2nd they are shown how to do complicated things we can't tell them how to do with words.

3rd we teach them to respond to important inferences after learning repetitive instructions.

There is no other way to train someone to do important and complicated tasks!!!!

GOD TRAINS EXACTLY THE SAME WAY.

When revealing how to navigate
between truth and error the Holy
Spirit used all three methods.

Instructions/Commands

Examples & Patterns

Inferences & Deductions

The Nature of the 1st Controversy

Disagreement over Gentile salvation.

Unless circumcised – Can't be saved :1

Paul & Barnabas – no small dissension
and dispute... :2

P & B to go to Jerusalem to resolve... :3

(Went be revelation... Gal 2:1)

Reported all things God had done :4

Necessary to circumcise and command
to keep the Law of Moses : 5

A Holy Spirit Approved Method

Acts 15

Four inspired men:

Peter, Paul & Barnabas and James.

At end of the discussion expressly stated:

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit 15:28

Thus both the method and conclusions were good to (inspired by) the Holy Spirit.

A clear example on how to deal with any error, conflict, controversy, rebellion, division, etc.

Method # 1

1. Peter – Example

God made choice that by my mouth Gentiles should hear the gospel and believe – (Acts 15:7).

This was fully revealed in Acts 10:1-48

Then fully explained in Acts 11:4-18

Peter only moved by Holy Spirit

Angel sent to Cornelius;

Peter given a vision and told to go.

As he preached hearers given spiritual gifts.

Gentiles entered the church by Peter's example.

It was too complicated for a simple instruction!

Method # 1

1. Peter – Example

God made choice that by my mouth Gentiles should hear the gospel and believe – (Acts 15:7).

Confronted as doing wrong. Acts 11:2

Peter explained his example in the order it occurred. 11:3

I saw a vision 11:4-10

At that moment three men asked me to go. 11:11

The Spirit told me to go 11:12

Method # 1

1. Peter – Example

God made choice that by my mouth Gentiles should hear the gospel and believe – (Acts 15:7). An angel sent to reveal Peter would come and preach words whereby they might be saved. 11:13

As I began to speak, God sent the Holy Spirit upon them. 11:15

I remember Jesus told us this gift proved God's favor. 11:16

Who was I to withstand God? 11:17

He commanded them to be baptized 10:47-48

Conclusion: Gentiles were saved with only baptism

Good to the Holy Spirit Method # 2

2. Paul and Barnabas – An Inference all knew
rehearsing what signs and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles through them 15:12

What did signs and wonders have to do with circumcising Gentiles or keeping the Law? 3 Facts

A– They were preaching Gentiles saved by gospel

B– God allowed them to perform signs –

bore witness unto the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands 14:3

C– Preaching confirmed by signs is inspired! Heb.

2:3-4; Mk 16:20

Good to the Holy Spirit Method # 2

2. Inference *signs and wonders* God had wrought among the Gentiles through them 15:12

A = They preached Gentiles saved by gospel

B = God allowed them to do signs - bore witness

C = preaching confirmed by signs is inspired!

The Necessary Inference they made:

A = B – (A) Preached Gentiles saved by gospel and
(B) were allowed to do signs

B = C – (B) did signs thus (C) inspired preachers

A = C – (A) Gentiles saved by gospel is
(C) inspired preaching

Good to the Holy Spirit Method # 2

2. Paul offers inspired commentary on what he did went up by revelation Gal 2:1-9

Showed them gospel I preach among the Gentiles.

1. saw the gospel for uncircumcised committed to me as the gospel for the circumcised was to Peter

2. for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised

3. also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles

Gal 2:7-9

They went by revelation and their words proved they were preaching the only true gospel. Gal 1:6-9

Good to the Holy Spirit Method # 3

3. James – Direct Instruction

Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written: Acts 15:14-15

When God rebuilds the tabernacle The Gentiles may also seek the Lord.

Gentiles as Gentiles may seek the Lord

Good to the Holy Spirit Method # 3

3. Other Direct Instructions about Gentiles

“ For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” 10 And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” 11 And again: “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!:” 12 And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” Rom 15:9-12

Gentiles as Gentiles will serve Jesus

1. The **Example** of Peter.
2. The **Necessary Inference** of Paul and Barnabas.
3. The **Direct Command** of James

Were both inspired and convincing! Acts 15:
It began “*when there had been much dispute*” 7
It ended with Unity:

seemed good to apostles, elders, the whole church 20
seemed good unto us, having come to one accord 25
For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us. 28

The **Example** of Peter, **Necessary Inference** of Paul and Barnabas and **Direct Command** of James were both inspired and convincing!

These methods formed their basis of how to **determine** and resolve this doctrinal conflict!

*And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were **determined** by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem Acts 16:4-5*

If it was good enough for the Holy Spirit and the apostles, shouldn't it be good enough for us!!!

We Must have a Standard

For resolving Doctrinal Conflicts

A way to fully interpret Scripture

A way to get everything they teach.

Holy Spirit gave it to us in Acts 15

We too can determine the truth with

Command/Instruction

Example and Imitation

Necessary Inference

We Must have a Standard

We did not create

Command/Instruction

Example and Imitation

Necessary Inference

We found them in Scripture

They are the inspired method

To resolve all controversy and
disagreement in doctrine and practice