The Expression of Religious Authority
Matt. 21:32-37

Introduction:
   A. Let’s assume that we believe that:
      1. The Bible is the word of God.
      2. God is sovereign with all authority.
      3. We must have authority from heaven to act in religion.
   B. We still need to ask, “How is that authority expressed to man?”

Discussion:
   I. It Is Expressed Objectively.
      A. Subjective claims are not enough (cf. Matt. 9:1-8).
      B. Spiritual truth must always be proven objectively (cf. Heb. 2:1-5; 1 Pet. 3:15; “It is written...

   II. It Is Expressed Expressly.
      A. Two views:
         1. Forbidden unless expressly authorized.
         2. Permitted unless expressly forbidden.
      B. Biblical view - must be expressly authorized (cf. Lev. 10:1-2)

   III. It Is Expressed in Commands, Examples and Necessary Inferences.
      A. This is a self-evident principle.
         1. Recognized in secular law.
         2. Recognized in all kinds of authority: Civil, parental, schools, etc.
      B. This is a divinely recognized principle — Jesus used all there.
      C. This is illustrated by Lord’s supper.
         2. Examples: “Upon the first day of the week when...” (Acts 20:7).
         3. Necessary Inference: Every necessarily inference, like Sabbath”

   IV. It Is Expressed in Generic and Specific Forms.
      A. The principle illustrated (Gen. 22:1-3; Heb. 7:14).
      B. The principle applied: Gopher wood, sing, go, teach, etc.

   V. It Is Expressed in Rights and Obligations.
      A. Must do certain things (Matt. 28:18-20; Heb. 10:25).
      B. May do certain things (1 Cor. 9:1-6).

Conclusion:
   A. We must be able to give authority for our actions — for own benefit and others.
   B. We must not act in religion with divine authority (cf. Col. 3:17).