

Study of Authority

Part 6

Authority and Edification

INTRODUCTION:

1. Review
 - a. Need for Authority
 - b. How to Establish Authority
 - c. Generic and Specific Authority
 - d. What is an Expediency?
 - e. Silence of The Scripture
 - f. Authority In Evangelism
2. When souls are converted they must not be forsaken and left to wander back into sin.
 - a. They must be taught how to worship God,
 - b. How to live a new life in Christ.
 - c. Must be edified or built up in the most holy faith.
3. Edification - *The act of building*: This is used only figuratively in the New Testament in the sense of edification the promotion of spiritual growth.
4. One of Jesus last commandments Matt. 28:20
5. The Apostle Paul calls this ``*the work of perfecting the saints.*'' Eph. 4:12

I. THE CHURCH IS TO ENGAGE IN THE WORK OF EDIFICATION:

- A. Authority for this work.
 1. Direct Command or Statement
 - a. To the church at Corinth Paul wrote 1 Cor. 14:26
 - b. Paul taught that the church (body) is sufficient unto the edifying of itself in love. Eph. 4:16.
 2. An Approved Example
 - a. Example of a church coming together for edification. 1 Cor. 14:26
 - 1) All things were to be done unto edifying vs. 27-28
 - b. Examples of teaching being done to the church (those already converted) for the purpose of edification. Acts 2:46; 4:23-30; 11:26

II. THERE WERE TEACHERS SET IN THE EARLY CHURCH FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDIFICATION:

- A. God set teachers in the Early church 1 Cor. 12:28
 1. In the beginning miraculous gifts were needed to provide adequate teaching in the church.
 2. Teachers were set in the church for the purpose of teaching those who had been converted. These teachers had miraculous powers give by the laying on of the apostles hands, and thus taught by inspiration.
- B. When Jesus ascended to Heaven he gave gifts unto men. Eph. 4:7-16
 1. They were Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 2. The purpose of these gifts:
 - a. Apostles and Prophets for the revelation of divine truth. Eph. 3:5; 1 Cor. 2:12-13; John 16:13
 - b. Evangelists for the propagation of the truth revealed. Example: Stephen Acts 7; Philip of Acts 7; 21:8; Timothy, Titus, Barnabas, and others.
 - c. Pastors (elders) and teachers for the work of the local church.
 - d. Paul said these were given ``*for the perfecting of the saints.*'' which is the work of teaching in the local church.

III. HOW THE CHURCH DID ITS WORK OF EDIFICATION - TEACHING

- A. The church is to edify itself. Eph. 4:16
 1. God has organized the church that it is able to do its work of edification.
 2. Whatever is necessary for the work of edification is authorized in the authority to do this work. (place-provisions-personnel)
- B. The church has the authority to recognize the various stages of physical, mental and Spiritual growth which people pass through.
 1. Some physical Classifications:
 - a. Young men and aged men Titus 2:2,6
 - b. Young women and aged women Titus 2:3,4
 - c. Children and parents Eph. 6:1-4
 - d. Husbands and wives Eph. 5:22-25
 - e. Masters and servants Tit. 2:9; Eph. 6:5-6
 2. Some mental classifications:
 - a. Adults and children, their thinking and understanding differ. 1 Cor. 13:11; 1 Cor. 14:20
 3. Some Spiritual Classifications:
 - a. Babes in Christ 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14
 - b. Full age Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Cor. 3:2

- C. Various groups are to be taught according to their ability to receive.
1. God has given the material (food) to be taught the different groups.
 - a. "Milk" for babes. 1 Pet. 2:2
 - b. "Strong meat" for those of full age Heb. 5:12-14.
 2. Teaching was sometimes withheld because some were not able to bear it. John 16:12; 1 Cor. 3:2
- D. Other evidence of classification.
1. Titus 2:1-8 Aged men and women.
 2. 1 Tim. 2:11,12 young women taught by aged women. but women are not to teach over the man.
 3. 1 Cor. 14:23,34
- E. There is no legislation on HOW, WHERE, or WHEN these groups maybe taught.
1. God specifics the organization and the means is left up to the church to select. The methods are also left to the church.
 2. The local church may make arrangements to teach these various groups.
 - a. If group arrangement is ruled out it must follow that all teaching would be done when the whole church is together. In the Bible there were women teachers (1 Cor. 11:5) and they are not to teach over men. 1 Tim. 2:11,12.
 3. Things necessary for teaching.
 - a. Place
 - b. Time
 - c. Persons.
 - d. Arrangements of those to be taught.
 4. The local church may provide
 - a. The place
 - b. Personnel (Teachers)
 - c. Provisions for edification.
 5. The pattern:
 - a. Local Church
 - 1) Place
 - 2) Personnel
 - 3) Provisions
 6. Not in the Pattern:
 - a. Local church hiring an organization to do the teaching or setting up a Sunday School Organization separated from the local church to do the work of edification.

IV. THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN EDIFICATION DOES NOT INVOLVE SECULAR EDUCATION:

- A. The church is to teach the Gospel of Christ, the word of God. It is the pillar and ground of truth. 1 Tim. 3:15
- B. Many churches have gotten into the field of secular education as a business.
 1. Many have grade schools, high schools, and colleges. They claim since the Bible is in the curriculum it is ok for the church to support it.
 2. The church in the New Testament never engaged in Secular education. No authority for the church to have a secular school.

CONCLUSION:

1. The church has a work in the realm of edification is accepted by all.
2. The Lord has restricted what the church is to teach, i.e. the word of the Lord. has restricted the organization to do the work has not restricted the time, place personal or persons to be taught or arrangements for teaching them.
3. We need to let the church do the work of edification but Keep it free from making contributions to secular schools or colleges and from getting into the school business.