THE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION:

1. II Tim. 1:13: "Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." ASV

2. Many people who say they want Bible Authority for their practices don't.

3. When it comes right down to it, they are not willing to accept and abide by the pattern of authority in scriptures.

4. The PATTERN of God's will about anything is the SUM TOTAL of what the Bible teaches about that thing, and this constitutes the exclusive pattern of the divine will.

5. The MIND OF GOD is made known to man in the SCRIPTURES REVEALED by the Holy Spirit -- I Cor. 2:11


7. Christ has ALL authority -- Matt. 28:18

8. Christ is the Lawgiver -- James 4:12

9. Paul taught the same body of truth "Everywhere in every church" -- I Cor. 4:17

10. Paul said there is "one faith" -- Eph. 4:5; Jude 3

I. THERE IS A PATTERN OF AUTHORITY IN HOW ONE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN

1. There is a form of doctrine, or mold of doctrine, or a pattern of doctrine -- Rom. 6: 17 - 18; 6: 3 - 4

   (1) Jesus died -- I Cor. 15: 1 - 4

   (2) Jesus was buried

   (3) Jesus was raised

   (4) Every Christian has conformed to that mold of doctrine in becoming a Christian:

      1. DIED to the love and practice of sin in repentance

      2. BURIED with Him by baptism into death to the guilt of sin

      3. RAISED to walk in newness of life-- Rom. 6: 3 - 4

2. There is a pattern of authority and uniformity of teaching on HOW to become a Christian.

   (1) In conversions in the New Testament they did not preach "faith only" or the "direct operation of the Holy Spirit".

   (2) They taught ALL:

      1. To hear -- Rom. 10:17

      2. To believe -- Mk. 16:16

      3. To repent -- Luke 24:47

      4. To confess Christ as the Son of God -- Rom. 10: 10; Acts 8:37; Matt. 10:32


3. The pattern of authority is in God's plan of pardon.
II. THE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY UNDERGIRDS EVERY FUNDAMENTAL FACET OF THE LORD’S CHURCH

1. There is ONE body -- not many bodies -- Eph. 4:4; I Cor. 12:20
2. There is ONE head -- Jesus Christ -- not a plurality of heads -- Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23
3. Only the Lord adds the saved to the church -- Acts 2:47

III. THE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY IN LIVING A RIGHTEOUS LIFE

1. We are to put off the OLD MAN with his deeds -- Col. 3:9
   (1) Col. 3: 5 - 9
   (2) I Cor. 6: 9 - 11
   (3) Tit. 2: 11 - 12
   (4) Gal. 5: 19 - 21
   (5) Rom. 12: 1 - 2
2. We are to put on the NEW MAN -- Col. 3:10
   (1) Col. 3: 12 - 14
   (2) I Pet. 1: 5 - 8
   (3) Phil. 4: 8

IV. THE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY IN WORSHIP -- John 4: 23 - 24

1. We are commanded to SING -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
   (1) The law of exclusion FORBIDS playing.
2. We are to eat the LORD’S SUPPER every Lord’s Day -- Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11: 20 - 24
3. We are to PRAY -- Acts 2:42
4. We are to GIVE -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
5. We are to TEACH and PREACH -- Acts 20:7; 2:42

V. THE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY FOR THE NAMES WE WEAR

1. Names we INDIVIDUALLY wear:
   1. Members -- Rom. 12: 4 - 5
   2. Citizens -- Eph. 2:19
   3. Disciples -- John 8:31
   4. Children -- Rom. 8: 16 - 17
   5. Brethren -- I Tim. 4:6
2. Names we COLLECTIVELY wear:
   1. Churches of Christ -- Rom. 16:16
2. Church of God -- I Cor. 1:2
5. The kingdom of His dear Son -- Col. 1:13
6. The household of Faith -- Gal. 6:10
7. House of God -- I Tim. 3:15

3. The pattern of authority will NOT allow a bypassing of these names for human names.

VI. THE PATTERN OF AUTHORITY IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

1. It is not a political mission.
2. It is not a glorified country club; it is not a recreational and entertainment realm -- Rom. 14:17
3. Its mission is spiritual:
   (1) Evangelism -- Matt. 28: 19
   (2) Edification -- Matt. 28: 20; Eph. 4: 11 - 12, 16
   (3) Benevolence to its own in need -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2

CONCLUSION:
1. Let us determine to abide in the authority of Christ -- II John 9 - 11; Rev. 22: 18 - 19
2. Are you here and our of Christ?

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