

“Don’t Talk Back To Me!”

By Jimmy Stevens

INTRODUCTION: No parent, in their right mind, enjoys their child talking back to them. Yet, how many well meaning people in various religions and even in the church of Christ “Talk Back To God”? Rom 9:20-21

- A. God is the ultimate and final authority in all things spiritual. He owns that right because he created mankind. Gen 1:26-27, Isa 45:12
- B. Therefore, no human should dare “Talk Back To God!” and attempt to set a pattern for spiritual practices.
 1. Examples of “*talking back to God*” illustrated, Isa 45:9-12, Matt 15:1-13, Isa 29:13-16, Rom 9:14-21
 2. We should submit to God in all things, Isa 64:8, 1 Pet 5:5-6, Hab 2:18-20

I. ***Saving Faith* is based solely on what is revealed not on what is not revealed.**

- A. Faith is required, Heb 11:6, Rom 10:17, John 20:30-31
- B. We walk by faith, 2 Cor 5:7, Titus 2:2, 2 Cor 13:5, Phil 1:27, Col 1:23, Prov 30:5-6
- C. Salvation is secured by trust in what is revealed, not in what is not revealed, Eph 1:11-14
- D. **ONE CANNOT BE SAVED BY BELIEVING WHAT IS NOT IN THE BIBLE!**

II. ***Saving Obedience* to what is revealed, not what is not revealed.**

- A. God’s word is the source of all spiritual truth, Psa 33:4, 119:160
- B. It contains all truth, Deut 29:25-29, John 16:13, Acts 20:20, 27, 32, Col 1:23, Jude 3
- C. It is sufficient to guide us, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Jas 1:25
- D. It is written to be read and obeyed, Eph 3:1-5, 2 Th 2:15

III. **“But God didn’t say NOT TO...”**

- A. That statement is self-defeating. How can we believe something is approved by God if he has not revealed that it is approved? By that reasoning we can have apple pie and milk for the Lord’s Supper. If God hasn’t said it, then he hasn’t authorized it.
- B. Again, faith can come only from what God has said, not on what he has not said. God’s silence does not grant us liberty to do whatever we choose. It AUTHORIZES NOTHING.
- C. The Bible treats the silence of the scriptures as ***unauthorized***.
 1. The tabernacle and the church, Exo 25:40, Heb 8:5
 2. God appointed priests from the tribe of Levi, but SAID NOTHING about the other tribes. Num 3:9-10, 1 Kgs 12-13, 2 Kgs 23:14-18. Heb 7:11-14.
 3. Don’t add to or take away, Deut 4:2, 12:32, Prov 30:5-6, 2 John 9, 1 Cor 4:6
- D. When we “*add to*”, “*not abide*” “*think beyond*”, WE ARE USING THE SILENCE OF THE SCRIPTURES WHERE GOD HAS NOT GIVEN AUTHORITY. BUT WHAT HE HAS AUTHORIZED IS SUFFICIENT TO DO HIS WILL!

IV. **“But where do we read of a church building to meet in or songbooks to sing by?”**

- A. There are things God has authorized where he is silent about how to obey. He has left it up to our judgment on how. This is called EXPEDIENCY, that which expedites or helps speed up obedience of something authorized. Examples:
1. Heb 10:25, “*not forsaking the assembling*” God does not say where we are to assemble, but he authorizes assembling. The authority for a place to assemble is in the authority to assemble.
 2. Eph 5:19, “*singing and making melody in your heart*,” God does not say we can use songbooks, but he authorizes singing. The authority for songbooks is in the authority for singing.
- B. An expedient can only expedite what is authorized. Example: A church gymnasium is an expedient for providing recreation for members of the church, except for one problem. The church is not authorized to provide entertainment or recreation for its members.
- C. When an expedient changes what God has authorized it violates his word.

IV. So, what if there is no authority for what a church is practicing?

- A. God’s attitude toward “*talking back to him*”. Col 2:20-23, 1 Tim 6:3-5, 2 Th 2:15, 3:6-7, 14
- B. Many have fallen away from God in the name of the “silence of the scriptures”, but we must remain faithful to what is revealed. 1 Tim 4:1-5, 6, 12-13, 2 Tim 4:1-5.

CONCLUSION: Christians are the clay to be molded by the potter, God. His word forms us exactly like he wants us. We should humble ourselves and not be guilty of “**Talking Back To God.**”