

Me vs. the Church

Confusion about the church and the observance of holidays.

Introduction

- Today is Christmas Eve
- Many are confused about the celebration of holidays.
- Simple answers:
 - 1. The church only has one holiday to observe - Lord's Day, first day of the week, Sunday.
 - 2. There are many things that I (individual) can do that the church does NOT do.

2 Approaches to authority

- Calvin - What is not forbidden is authorized
- Zwingli - What is not authorized is forbidden

3 Types of Authority

- Specific command -
 - Go preach the gospel
 - Do not steal
 - There are many “Do” or “Don’t” commands in the Bible

3 Types of Authority

- Generic command -
 - Go into all the world - command includes method of travel
 - Worship - order of service, time, place = options
 - God often gives a general command and allows us to choose the details

3 Types of Authority

- Necessary Inference -
 - Not mentioned but needed to obey the command
 - Build an ark - includes the tools needed
 - Key word - necessary - not just something you can infer - but an absolute necessity

Me vs the church

- There things that the individual is allowed to do
- But the church is limited by specific commands

Me vs the church

- Individual

- Make money in garage sale

- The Church

- 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 Each one, as he purposes in his heart, *let him give*; not of grief, or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Me vs the church

- Individual

- Make money in garage sale
- Perform solo, sing in a choir

- The Church

- Ephesians 5:19
- Colossians 3:16

Me vs the church

- Individual

- Make money in garage sale
- Perform solo, sing in a choir
- Big Mac & Coke

- The Church

- 1 Corinthians 11:24-29
- Unleavened bread
- Fruit of the vine

Me vs the church

- Individual

- Make money in garage sale
- Perform solo, sing in a choir
- Big Mac & Coke
- Observe holidays

- The Church

- Galatians 4:10-11 You observe days and months and times and years. 11 I fear *for* you, lest somehow I have labored among you in vain.

Me vs the church

- Individual

- Make money in garage sale
- Perform solo, sing in a choir
- Big Mac & Coke
- Observe holidays

- The Church

- Colossians 2:16-17
Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or in respect of a feast, or of the new moon, or of the sabbaths. 17 For these are a shadow of things to come, but the body *is* of Christ.

Conclusion

- The church observes the Lord's Day, the 1st day of week
- There are no other holidays for the church to observe.
- As individuals we are free to observe any day as we choose.
- Romans 14:5-6 One indeed esteems a day above *another* day; and *another* esteems every day *alike*. Let each one be fully assured in his own mind. 6 He who regards the day regards *it* to the Lord; and he not regarding the day, does not regard *it* to the Lord. He who eats, eats to *the* Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, does not eat to *the* Lord, and gives God thanks.