

## Do We Respect God's Authority?

The standard of what is acceptable in religion for many is whether it satisfies the individual. Many I am afraid "shop" for a religion that meets their personal preferences, treating the scriptures as a salad bar--picking things they like and passing over others. Many have pursued the path in religion without ever considering the question, "is God satisfied with my religion?" the whole conclusion is not, serve God as you please, but as the wise man Solomon said in...Ecclesiastes 12:13 – *“let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear god and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”*

Our purpose in daily activities and in worship should be to strive to please God. Those who truly seek to serve God will not be satisfied until they do this. We must be willing to test our practices and beliefs to see if they agree with the scriptures.

2 Corinthians 13:5 – *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith, test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless indeed you are disqualified.”*

The only way to please God in all that we do is to follow his revealed will. Then to simply read and study the scriptures and follow them in all we do, not adding to them or taking away.

2 john 9 – *“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the father and the son.”*

Deuteronomy 4:2 – *“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”*

Those who fail to do this lack respect for the authority of God as lord and master.

Colossians 3:17 - the inspired apostle said, *“and whatsoever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him.”*

To "do all in the name of the lord" means to respect the authority of the lord in everything. We must have god's authority for all that we do and that authority must be established from the scriptures; for it is there that god has revealed his will for us.

So, our personal morality, conduct, religious beliefs, and things practiced in worship must be based on book, chapter, and verse. One may be satisfied with the manner in which they live and worship, while God may not be, making life and worship worthless before the lord.

Matthew 15:8-9 – Jesus warns us with these words,

*“For these people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*

Therefore, let us search the scriptures to establish authority for all that we believe and practice showing respect for God's authority.

Romans 1:16 – *“for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

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