

The Authoritative Pattern of the Bible

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Introduction

1. A pattern is simply a form to be followed. It is by its very nature detailed and specific.
2. I'm thankful God gives us patterns that instruct us in what He commands. How could we ever know how to please the Lord, if the Lord did not tell us?
 - a. The Lord Jesus always does what is pleasing to the Father (John 8:28-29).
 - b. To show His love for His Father, Jesus does exactly what the Father commands (John 14:31).
 - c. We need to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects" (Col. 1:9-10).

I. Some Patterns Found in the Old Testament

- A. God gave Noah a pattern for building the ark of gopher wood (Gen. 6:14-16).
 1. Noah had a pattern for the animals to come into the ark (Gen. 7:2-3).
 2. "Thus Noah did; according to all that God had commanded him, so he did" (Gen. 6:22).
 3. God called Noah an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith (Heb. 11:7).
- B. God gave Moses an explicit pattern for the building of the tabernacle (Ex. 25:9, 40; 26:30).
 1. God gives three chapters of details of how to build the tabernacle (Ex. 25-27).
 2. God gives detailed instructions on the priesthood and the offerings of the tabernacle.
 3. The Israelites did as Moses commanded (Ex. 39:32); and Moses examined the work and blessed the people (Ex. 39:42-43).
 4. God regarded Moses as faithful in all His house (Heb. 3:2).
- C. God gave Joshua a detailed pattern for conquering Jericho (Josh. 6:1-21).
 1. I don't know of any New Testament pattern as complicated as the instructions for walking around the walls of Jericho, yet Joshua was faithful.
 2. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days (Heb. 11:30).
- D. When people failed to fulfill the patterns God gave, God punished them.
 1. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire, which the Lord had not commanded (Lev. 10:1-3).
 2. Uzzah perished when he touched the ark, because they did not carry it according to the instruction (2 Sam. 6:7; 1 Chron. 15:2, 13).

II. Patterns Found in the New Testament

- A. Obedience to the Gospel (Rom. 6:16-18)
 1. Jesus set a pattern in His death, burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-3).
 2. Baptism fulfills this pattern in crucifixion, burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-7).
- B. The Lord's Supper is a pattern (Matt. 26:26-29).
 1. The Supper's pattern was both received and delivered (1 Cor. 11:23-26).
 2. The Lord's Supper (*kuriakon deipnon*) and the Lord's Day (*kuriake hemera*) are inseparably united together (1 Cor. 11:20; Rev. 1:10).
 3. This is why Paul and the church waited until the first day of the week to break the bread (Acts 20:6-7).
- C. Giving on the first day of the week forms a pattern (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
- D. The qualifications of elders and deacons form a pattern (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9).
- E. Jesus left us an example for us to follow in His steps in life (1 Pet. 2:21-23).
- F. We are not to be conformed to the world but transformed so that we may prove what the will of God is (Rom. 12:2).
- G. We are to have the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:3-8).

Conclusion

1. It should not surprise us that the Lord wants us to live by patterns.

2. The Lord does what He sees the Father doing (John 5:19; 12:48-50).
3. The Lord's way is a way of obedience (Matt. 7:21-27).
4. The Lord abides in those who love Him enough to obey His Word (John 14:15, 23).