

# **Bible Hermeneutics**

**1. Jesus or Paul**

**2. Argument from Silence**

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## **Lesson 1: Jesus or Paul**

# Jesus or Paul

- **The red writing is more valuable than the black writing?**
- **Jesus was God, but Paul was only a man?**
- **Paul said he only gave advice, but Jesus gave God's commandments?**

# Jesus or Paul

## I Corinthians 7

**10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:**

**11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.**

**12 But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.**

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# I Corinthians 7

- **Paul repeated the rules Jesus taught during His ministry to Jewish audiences (7:10).**
- **Jesus did not face marriage to unbelievers.**
- **Paul faced many marriages with unbelievers.**
- **Paul provided additional revelation (7:12).**

# Jesus or Paul

- **Jesus of Nazareth is God our only Saviour.**
- **Paul needed to be saved as much as anyone.**
- **However, Paul was the apostle to Gentiles.**
- **And Paul said to follow him (I Cor 11:1).**
- **Paul gave the Lord's ordinances to Gentiles.**

# Jesus or Paul

- **Jesus was made under the Law as a Jew.**
- **His parents and He always kept Moses' Law.**
- **He preached only to the lost sheep of Israel.**
- **John and He initiated the time of reformation.**
- **Jesus had some distinctly Jewish teachings.**

# Jesus or Paul

- **Jesus chose Paul to preach to the Gentiles.**
- **He magnified his office ... apostle to Gentiles.**
- **He taught the Gentiles how to follow Jesus.**
- **His epistles are primarily for the Gentiles.**
- **Acts is helpful too, written by his friend Luke.**

# **Time of Reformation**

- **From John to destruction of Jerusalem.**
- **Paul called it this name in Hebrews 9:10.**
- **The O.T. applied until this reformation.**
- **For 40 years, both covenants ran side by side.**
- **God shook the religious world to give us what we have today in the gospel kingdom.**

# **Example - Circumcision**

- **Jesus was circumcised to keep Moses' Law.**
- **Paul was circumcised as a Jew.**
- **But Paul did not circumcise Titus.**
- **He taught the Galatians it was not needed.**
- **He only circumcised Timothy to help Jews.**

# **Example - Baptism**

- **John baptized Jesus to fulfill righteousness.**
- **John's baptism was invalid after Pentecost.**
- **Pentecost gave baptism authority from Jesus.**
- **Paul rebaptized 12 disciples that had only John's baptism.**
- **Paul taught the detailed symbolism of it.**

# **Example - Pharisees**

- **Jesus taught obedience to the Pharisees, who had authority from Moses (Matt 23:1-3).**
- **Paul counted their education to be dung.**
- **He ridiculed the Pharisees as the concision.**
- **He repudiated his previous career as one.**
- **Paul rather obeyed the council at Jerusalem.**

# **Example - Sabbath**

- **Jesus as a Jew observed the weekly Sabbath.**
- **He used Sunday a few times after His death.**
- **Paul taught the churches Sunday worship.**
- **He taught the Sabbath as beggarly shadows.**
- **The Jerusalem council ignored the Sabbath.**

# **Example - Footwashing**

- **Jesus washed His disciples' feet after Supper.**
- **He told them to do as they had seen Him do.**
- **This was a lesson for humility and service.**
- **Paul never mentioned such a church practice.**
- **He listed it as a widow's exceptional conduct.**

# **Example – The Church**

- **Jesus never saw a local church as we have.**
- **Jesus attended synagogues on the Sabbath.**
- **For the Spirit began to build at Pentecost.**
- **Paul gave the rules for church conduct.**
- **He wrote three epistles to pastors.**

# **Example – Israel**

- **Jesus was a citizen of the nation of Israel.**
- **He taught that internal religion truly counts.**
- **But Paul fully developed this doctrine.**
- **Paul taught God's eternal purpose that Jews and Gentiles were to be one body.**
- **God gave special revelation to Paul about it.**

# **Example – Passover**

- **Jesus as a Jew attended about 34 Passovers.**
- **Some today try to keep the Jewish Passover.**
- **But Paul taught its fulfillment in communion.**
- **Jews and Gentiles now eat at Christ's Table.**
- **Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Passover Lamb.**

# **Example – New Covenant**

- **Jesus introduced the new covenant.**
- **He instituted it after the Passover supper.**
- **He returned to heaven shortly thereafter.**
- **But Paul gave us all the details about it.**
- **He also explained the shadows of the Old.**

# Example – Swearing

- **Jesus condemned any swearing very strictly.**
- **He said anything beyond *yes* or *no* was sin.**
- **But we read Paul swore on several occasions.**
- **Jesus corrected Pharisee abuse of swearing.**
- **JW's and Mennonites cannot grasp this.**

# **Example – Commission**

- **Jesus told His apostles to teach everywhere.**
- **He also promised great signs to follow them.**
- **But we cannot fulfill it as Jesus taught it.**
- **And Paul never mentioned it a single time.**
- **Instead he described its fulfillment often.**

# Example – Signs

- **Jesus gave mighty gifts to help His apostles.**
- **The sign gifts were to confirm the apostles.**
- **Revelatory gifts were until N.T. was written.**
- **Both gifts lasted from Jesus to 70 A.D.**
- **Paul never described them to his two pastors.**

# **Example – Offices**

- **Jesus called twelve men to be His apostles.**
- **The apostles were exceptional ministers.**
- **An apostle had to have seen the risen Lord.**
- **He gave other offices once He was in heaven.**
- **But Paul lists only bishops and deacons left.**

# **Example – Holy Spirit**

- **From the beginning John announced that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost.**
- **Jesus finally gave the Spirit at Pentecost.**
- **It fell to Paul to describe this great blessing.**
- **Most Holy Spirit doctrine is in his epistles.**
- **Rom 8:26-27 has more to teach us about this.**

# **Bible Hermeneutics**

## **Lesson 2: Argument from Silence**

# **Argument from Silence**

- **Some argue falsely from the Bible's silence about certain things.**
- **This line of reasoning is false. Reject it.**
- **The argument from silence is invalid.**
- **It becomes a fallacy of reasoning in the Bible.**

# **The Bible Is Complete**

- **If God commands a thing, we do it exactly.**
- **If God condemns a thing, we strictly avoid it.**
- **If God ignores a thing, we have no rules.**
- **A positive law is enough – all else is wrong.**
- **The Bible is a complete system of truth.**
- **Some call this the regulative principle.**

# What is this Fallacy?

- **It is called the argument from silence.**
- **It is the opposite of the previous slide.**
- **It is ... *we can do anything not prohibited.***
- **It is ... *God's silence is implied approval.***
- **It is ... *we can do anything not condemned.***

# What is this Fallacy?

- **It is called the argument from silence.**
- **It is the logical fallacy of *burden of proof*.**
- **It is the logical fallacy of *appeal to ignorance*.**
- **If you cannot prove me wrong, I am right!**
- **Since no evidence condemns me, I am right!**

# **Think about the Results**

- **God has not condemned Coke and chips for the Lord's Supper ... should we try them?**
- **Baptism involves water, and He did not condemn a squirt gun ... should we try it?**
- **There is no end to these absurdities, once you start down the road of this fallacy.**

# How Is this Fallacy Used?

- **God did not condemn American or Christian flags, so we have both and a pledge for each.**
- **God did not condemn pianos and organs, so we have one of each ... and a praise band!**
- **God did not say a woman could not be a pastor, and women have their gifts as well.**

# God Condemns the Fallacy

**“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”**

**Deuteronomy 4:2**

**“Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.”**

**Deuteronomy 5:32**

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# **God Condemns the Fallacy**

**“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”**

**Deuteronomy 12:32**

**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”**

**Matthew 28:20**

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**Matthew 28:20**

# Condemned by Argument

**“For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.”**

**Hebrews 7:13-14**

**How did God reject Judah from the priesthood?**

**The argument from silence would approve.**

**God’s positive command for Levi was enough!**

# Condemned by Argument

**“But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?”**

**Matthew 12:3-4**

**How did God condemn David eating shewbread?**

**The fallacy from silence would approve.**

**God’s positive command to priests was enough!**

# Condemned by Example

- **God rejected Cain's offering at the right time at the right place to the LORD.**
- **What example and command had been given?**
- **Was there room to add offerings not specifically condemned or prohibited?**
- **Were the consequences severe?**

# Condemned by Example

- **God rejected Nadab and Abihu's strange fire by the right men at the right time and place.**
- **How had God condemned their innovation?**
- **Was there room to add new incense not specifically condemned or prohibited?**
- **Were the consequences severe?**

# Condemned by Example

- **Moses hit the right rock at the right time with the Lord's rod at His word with good results.**
- **How had God condemned the modification?**
- **Was there room to change things just a little?**
- **Were the consequences severe?**

# Condemned by Example

- **Saul preserved the best of the Amalekites' spoil for sacrifice to the LORD.**
- **How had God condemned the modification?**
- **Did his explanation of motive justify it at all?**
- **Were the consequences severe?**

# Condemned by Example

- **David rejoiced with great zeal to worship God by moving the ark on a new ox cart.**
- **How had God condemned using new ox carts?**
- **Did David's good intentions cover his sin?**
- **What does God call doing things His way?**
- **Were the consequences severe?**

# Condemned by Example

- **Uzziah loved God, had been greatly blessed by Him, and he wanted to worship directly.**
- **How did God condemn kings burning incense?**
- **Did Uzziah's kingly authority cover his sin?**
- **Does sincerity or zeal allow extra liberties?**
- **Were the consequences severe?**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **God allows aids to keep His commandments.**
- **God rejects additions to His commandments.**
- **This is called the Doctrine of Circumstances.**
- **Circumstances are incidental to obedience.**
- **We separate circumstances from commands.**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **An “aid” helps keeping God’s commandments without modifying the commandment at all.**
- **An “addition” is a modifying change to the basic nature of His commandment.**
- **Ask ... Has anything been added or deleted?**
- **Ask ... is the command only easier to obey?**
- **Is a thing merely a circumstance of obeying?**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **God told Noah to build an ark of gopher wood.**
- **What is a hammer? An aid or an addition?**
- **What is cedar? An aid or an addition?**
- **How do we know God did not want cedar?**
- **How do we know God allowed tools?**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **God told the Jews to use a lamb for Passover.**
- **What about using a delicious little pig?**
- **Could they use a table to hold the items?**
- **How did God condemn little pigs?**
- **But He made pigs with red blood able to die!**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **Jesus ordained bread for the Lord's Supper.**
- **Is there a difference between passing the broken bread on a plate and a ham sandwich?**
- **How did Jesus condemn ham sandwiches?**
- **Is an oven to bake bread an addition or aid?**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **The beverage for communion at Corinth caused drunkenness (1 Cor 11:21).**
- **Paul rebuked their conduct, not the beverage.**
- **What beverage must be the “due order”?**
- **Is grape juice allowed by silence against it?**
- **Are cups and their holder an aid or addition?**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **We are told to sing in the New Testament.**
- **Is this any different than the order to Moses?**
- **Is a piano an aid or addition?**
- **Is a hymnal an aid or addition?**
- **Does God care about little matters like this?**

# **Aids or Additions**

- **We are told to take a collection.**
- **Is a collection plate an aid or an addition?**
- **Could the collection be made in a box?**
- **Does God care whether box or offering plate?**
- **Would He appreciate fees for communion?**

# What about Wine?

- **Some condemn using wine or beer.**
- **God did not condemn or command their use.**
- **God did condemn drunkenness, but not wine.**
- **We do not help God by being stricter than He.**
- **Bible silence is Christian liberty, and we defend the right of each believer in such.**

# **What Have We Learned**

- **Jesus and Paul had different ministries.**
- **We live on the better side of the reformation.**
- **We are to follow Jesus as Paul taught us.**
- **The argument from silence is invalid.**
- **The Bible is a complete system of truth.**
- **We keep all His commands exactly as given.**