

## From God or from man

Jeremy and Tawnya are familiar with this material but I'm presenting it here to get everyone up to speed on some additional Bible principles relevant to our discussion.

The procedure we will use for this post is: I will give a passage for you to read and then I will add to the discussion referring to specific verses in the passage you just read. This way I don't have to repost the major passages. But I want to encourage everyone to read the passage first to get the most out of this post.

### Passage 1 - Matthew 21:23-27

Jesus here is once again challenged by the religious leaders in Jerusalem. We might phrase their challenge like this: "Who are you to tell us what to do?" They are challenging his authority. He answers with a question. He shifts the focus from him personally to God The Father by asking, where did John get the idea to baptize "**From heaven or from man?**" In other words From God or from man. Their focus was on the personal and the political and so they could not comply with the request of Jesus here. Let's not be like them. Let's not focus on the personal or political (man focused). Let's be like Jesus (God focused). Jesus said "**My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me...**" (read **John 7:14-18**). And Jesus always did what pleased The Father (**John 8:29**). Teaching from our own opinion seeks our own glory. Teaching from God gives God the glory. And so we see the importance when confronted with some teaching to ask the question: Is it From God or from man?

### Passage 2 - Mark 7:1-13

The focus here is a little different than in the previous passage. Teaching from God versus the traditions of men. Jesus warned them about the human tendency to add things to God's instruction. He strongly condemns them for taking some man made tradition or teaching and holding to it as if it was from God. We are not being helpful by doing this. In fact it's an either or thing. Jesus said: "**You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.**" (**Mark 7:8**) We are nullifying God's word (no salvation) when we do this. Jesus went on to say: "**...thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.**" (**Mark 7:13**) Jesus is quite emphatic with his condemnation here.

We see the importance when confronted with some teaching to ask the question: Is it From God or from man? Modern day examples of leaving the commandment of God and holding to the tradition of men are; saying drinking, gambling and abortion are sins. These teachings while they have an

appearance of holiness when they are presented as coming from God actually cause us to leave God's word in order to hold to these traditions. It almost seems like teachers won't teach this principle because they want to push their own agenda. They want to continue in the tradition from man and so leave God's instruction. Jesus condemns this sort of thing and so I must also.

Don't look at this as a comment on whether I agree or disagree with your opinion. Your opinion might be right for you. It's just that you cannot say God has spoken when he has not spoken (**Jeremiah 28:15**). And when you say such and such is a sin when God has not called it a sin, that is what you're doing. We see from God's word that this is a very serious matter. I have an opinion on drinking, gambling and abortion. My opinion is not important. When I make a statement such as: "You can't say abortion is a sin." That does not mean that I am staking out a pro abortion position. Make sure you understand that. This is the situation that I often find myself in. I encounter resistance when my understanding of God's instruction comes into conflict with human tradition. Our focus here should be on God's opinion. God's opinion is binding on us. God's opinion is our command. My opinion is not important.

James Rattazzi – March 25, 2020



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