

Authority – Part 4

The Specifics and Generalities of Law

The Need for Exacting Obedience:

Balaam – “I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do more or less.” (*Num. 22:18*)

Joshua – “Therefore be very courageous to keep and do all that is written in the book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left.” (*Josh. 23:6*)

Two Things About Law:

Where a law specifies, we are limited to the specifics of that law.

Where a law does not specify, we are free to improvise – as long as we do not go beyond the law.



Two Things About Law:

Where a law specifies, we are limited to the specifics of that law.

Where a law does not specify, we are free to improvise – as long as we do not go beyond the law.



Expedient:

“A suitable way for achieving a particular end in a given circumstance” (Merriam-Webster)

For something to be expedient:

- 1. It must be lawful itself.**
- 2. It must not cause one to go beyond the specifics of the law under consideration.**
- 3. It must be suitable to the circumstances.**

Expedient:

“A suitable way for achieving a particular end in a given circumstance” (Merriam-Webster)

Paul's two warnings in 1 Cor.

1. *1 Cor. 6:12* – We must not become slave to an expedient.
2. *1 Cor. 10:23* – We must be sure that the expedient is something that will build up rather than tear down the faith of others.

Making music to God:

The specifics in the command:

1. *Singing* – vocalized music that expresses what is in the heart.
2. *Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs* – music that is biblically based, expresses adoration for God, and/or tells a spiritual story.

Making music to God:

Some expedients in the command:

1. *The method of the song* – everyone sing same notes; four part harmony.
2. *The melody of the song* – slow, dirge-like; more pep, with sense of celebration.
3. *The medium of the song* – sung by memory; song books; songs projected.

Making music to God:

**The key to identifying
an expedient:**

**When we have used an expedient,
we have done nothing more than
what the command specifies –
singing psalms, hymns and spiritual
songs.**

Making music to God:

Instrumental Music:

An *AIDE* or an *ADDITION*?

Sing – “to utter words in musical tones and with musical inflections and modulations”

(Merriam-Webster)

Singing a song and playing a song on an instrument are two entirely different actions.

Is it a big deal? Ask Nadab and Abihu!