

Alright, so if we can get a conversation away from denominational dependency, we have made progress. But then there are some crucial questions that then still must be addressed, and addressed properly:

- 1) How do we ENTER into this One Church of Saved People in Christ?
 - a. There are SO many ideas. Some use passages, some don't. Which is the right path?
- 2) How do we make sure to REMAIN in the One Church of Saved People in Christ?
 - a. Again, SO many ideas, bias, history, favored passages.... Which combo is the right one?
- 3) How can we REALLY expect to be Unified in our Beliefs about the One True Church?
 - a. It quickly feels daunting again, with just a couple of questions. But we must find a way!

We can answer these questions, but often do so inefficiently and ineffectively. Let me show you a bunch of verses on baptism. Let me show you a bunch of verses on faithfulness or else. Let me show you a bunch of verse on unity and humility and self sacrifice. All is for naught without ONE VERSE FIRST!

*"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to **observe all that I have commanded**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" **Matt. 28:18-20***

No list of verses. No lengthy conversation. No thing can get someone to the right answers and directions, unless we can absolutely UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE and ACCEPT this passage: 3 Specific Idea.

- I. ALL AUTHORITY
 - a. Jesus has the right to make all the rules for your life. He had overcome death at the time. He was ascending to a throne in heaven. He died for you. He lives for you. He goes to rule over you. So, all "right to act" in our lives, in every way, is derived from His "right to rule."
 - b. **Colossians 1:15-18** – You must understand, believe, and accept these truths
 - c. He is "LORD and CHRIST" and I will do whatever He says, however He says, ever time.
- II. ALL THINGS (kjb)
 - a. We must follow Jesus in every single thing He and His apostles and prophets have instructed us. We cannot pick and choose. We cannot rank them. We cannot modify. (John 3:16 YES /Mark 16:16 YES)
 - b. Jesus desires "disciples" – FOLLOWERS of Him. Jesus demands baptism, by the authority of ALL 3 in the GODHEAD! Who would deny that.
 - c. **Colossians 1:21-23** – continue firm in the faith. Not the denomination or name of our church. Not in ourselves or our parents or our pastors. In "the Gospel,"
- III. ALWAYS
 - a. I am with you always, Jesus said, even to the end of the age. Jesus would be right there with the Apostles in their work, looking down on them from heaven. Interceding and sending aid and strengthening them, AS THEY DID THEIR WORK.
 - b. **Philippians 4:4-9** – The Lord is near: with us. We are in Him. He has instructed us to think certain ways and practice certain things – and He is right there beside us every day.

Well, fear begins to set in for some. This just seems like too much. I'm just trying to live this life the best I can and you've added 3 HEAVY TOPICS on me here... well, that is the nature of AUTHORITY. And, by the way, these three things have been consistent of God since the **Garden of Eden**, through **Israel's History**.

But, I have some encouraging news revealed to us in the Gospel:

- 1) ALL AUTHORITY -- Jesus' POWER is covered with LOVE - (**Ephesians 2:1-7**) – This authority was established because God Loves Us – Jesus Loves Us – They want to Bless Us, not suppress our blessings. He is trying to protect us from death, from sin, from anguish, and we need ALL HIS POWER, so we submit to it.
- 2) ALL THINGS – Jesus' LAW is enfolded with GRACE – (**Ephesians 2:4-9**) - God knows we will fail and falter. His Grace reaches us. He gives us more than we deserve. He doesn't demand perfection, and HE FORGIVES every time we plead for it. Yes, we must seek to keep every law! But God's grace holds us up in that walk.
- 3) ALWAYS – Jesus' FELLOWSHIP comes with EXPECTATION – (**Ephesians 2:8-10**) – Yes, He saves us by by His grace as we live by faith in Him. And He is ever with us. He is always here. But this is not just so we can feel warm inside. It is to infuse us with energy and momentum to be what He made us to be: workers!

Now return to our 3 Questions. Now you go to your passages and look at His will. But it only can work when a) we have demolished denomination thinking b) we have demolished our pride and kneel entirely before Him.