

will in all things; both speech and action (Colossians 3:17). To act without His authority is to be without God (2 John 9).

What relationships are included within the “all” which is to be done in His name?

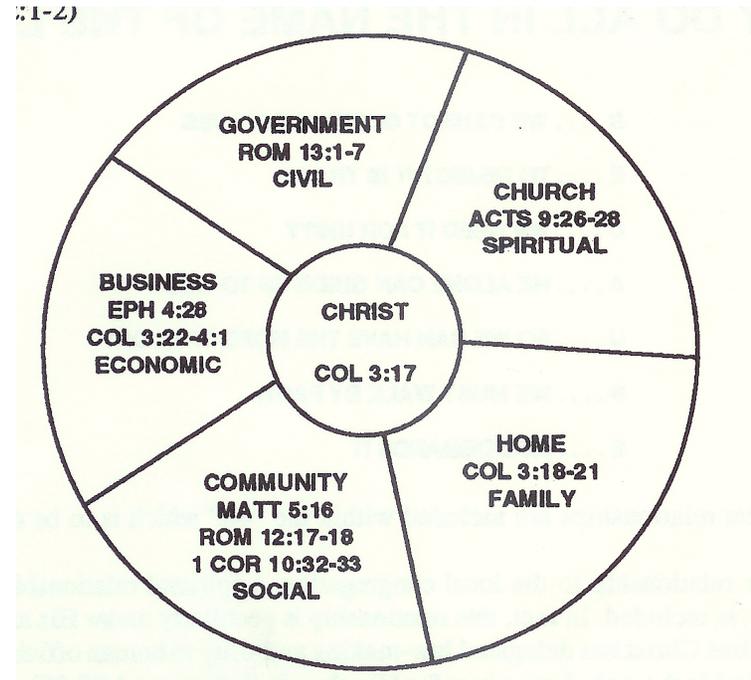
Our relationship to the **local congregation**, a **spiritual** relationship (cf. Acts 9:26-28), is included. In fact, this relationship is peculiarly under His authority. In other realms Christ has delegated law making authority to human officials. But the Son of God is the only Lawgiver for His church (Ephesians 1:22-23). We will study this relationship in lesson twenty-two.

Our activities in the **home**, the **family** relationship, must also be under His direction. The home is a divine institution, having been begun by God in the Garden of Eden (Matthew 19:3-6). Christ ordained that one man and one woman form a life-long union (Ibid). He allows only one cause for divorce, sexual immorality by one’s mate, and then allows only the innocent party who has divorced his mate for sexual immorality to remarry (Matthew 19:7-9). He directs the husband to love his wife (Ephesians 5:25) and to treat her with honor (1 Peter 3:7). Fathers are to train their children in God’s way (Ephesians 6:4) and to provide the material needs of their families (1 Timothy 5:8). Wives must be in submission to their husbands (Ephesians 5:22), love both their husbands and children, and keep the home (Titus 2:4-5). Children are to obey and honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3).

Christ directs us in **business**, the **economic** relationship. He tells us to work to earn an honest living (Ephesians 4:28). He directs employees to obey and work diligently for their employers (Colossians 3:22-25); and He commands employers to treat employees with fairness and mildness (Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9).

The Lord teaches us how to behave relative to the **community**, the **social** relationship. We must live Christ-like lives before our neighbors at all times, that our godly lives might lead them to Christ (Matthew 5:16). We must not take personal vengeance, we must live honorably before all, and we must try to get along with other people (Romans 12:17-18). We must never cause another to sin but seek to save all (1 Corinthians 10:32-33).

Finally, Jesus Christ guides us in our behavior toward the **government**, the **civil** relationship. Civil government, like the home and church, is one of the three divinely ordained institutions (Romans 13:1). Toward civil powers we are obligated to obey the law, to pay



our taxes, to honor civil rulers (Romans 13:1-7), and to pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Thus, the life of a Christian is guided by the authority of Jesus seven days a week, not just on Sunday morning, and in every aspect of life, not just toward the congregation. Do you follow Christ seven days a week? Are you doing “all in the name of the Lord Jesus”?

Work Cited

Vine, W.E., **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**.

Questions for Review

I. Matching

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ “in the name of” | A. given |
| 2. _____ Lord | B. in recognition of the authority of |
| 3. _____ delegated | C. ruler |

II. True/False

1. _____ God is the ultimate source of all legitimate authority.
2. _____ God has given all earthly authority to the pope.
3. _____ To be saved, we must obey Christ.
4. _____ We must submit to Christ in every area of life.
5. _____ The church is a physical relationship.
6. _____ God has placed human lawmakers in the church.
7. _____ The family is a purely human institution which we can change if we please.
8. _____ Christ ordained that one man and one woman form a life-long union.
9. _____ Christ allows divorce for many reasons.
10. _____ The husband must love and honor his wife.
11. _____ Fathers are to train their children in God's way.
12. _____ Wives must be in submission to their husbands.
13. _____ Children are to obey and honor their parents.
14. _____ Employees should not have to work diligently.
15. _____ Employers have the right to be harsh and unfair to their employees.
16. _____ We must live Christ-like lives before our neighbors at all times.
17. _____ It is alright to cheat on your taxes since the government uses the money for bad things.

Bible Correspondence Course Lesson Twenty-one Christians Must Do All in the Name of the Lord

Open contempt for authority of all kinds is perhaps the outstanding fault of the present generation. In the home, children rebel against parental authority, while fathers and mothers sheepishly follow the perverting guidance of child psychology. Drivers ignore speed laws. In religion, even among members of the church of Christ, the cry is, "We do lots of things without Bible authority." Yet, in the presence of such high-handed rebellion, God commands:

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him
(Colossians 3: 17).

How can we "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"?

To answer this, we must first inquire, What does it mean to do all in His name? The term "name" means:

...in general the name by which a person is called... for all that a name implies, of authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, etc., of everything the name covers... in recognition of the authority of... (Vine. 3:100).

As an instance of this last usage, "in recognition of the authority of" Vine cites Colossians 3:17. The Sanhedrin inquired of Peter and John "By what power or by what name" they had preached in the temple (Acts 4:7). They replied, "by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (verse 10). Subsequently, the council commanded the apostles "not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus" (verse 18). Obviously, authority is implied in the name. If an officer of the law were to shout to an escaping criminal, "Stop in the name of the law," would he not mean, "By the authority vested in me as an officer of the law, I command you to stop"? To "do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" means to follow His authority in all things.

God is the source of all legitimate authority in every realm (Acts 17:22-28). He is "Lord," i.e., ruler, of all things by virtue of the fact He created everything (v. 24). But He has given all authority to His Son, Christ Jesus (Matthew 28:18).

What, then, is our responsibility to the authority of Christ? To be saved, we must obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). We must submit to His