



THE ROLE OF EXAMPLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

New Testament Examples

- God intends we learn from examples (1 Corinthians 10.6).
- NT examples are important:
 - Jesus' example - 1 Peter 2.21ff
 - Apostolic examples - Philippians 4.9; 1 Corinthians 11.1
 - New Testament examples are generally binding!



New Testament Examples

- When is a NT example not binding?
- When the principle is undone - cf. John 4.21f
 - There is no binding assembly location — the physical location of the assembly is unimportant.
- When multiple options are presented:
 - Assembly locations — school (Acts 19.9), upper room (20.8), house (1 Corinthians 16.19)

Non-Binding New Testament Examples

- **How is this applicable to me?**
 - **In Acts 20 they observed the Lord's Supper in an upper room — why don't we?**
 - **The principle of John 4.21ff reveals that we should not bind the physical location of the observance of the Lord's Supper.**
 - **In Acts 16.1-3, Paul circumcised Timothy before taking him on an evangelistic journey — must we do the same?**
 - **We find an example of an uncircumcised man going on a preaching journey - Titus (Galatians 2.1-3).**

Binding Examples in the New Testament

- How is this applicable to me?
 - What multiple options, presented in Scripture, would allow us to alter the day of the observance of the Lord's Supper?
 - In both Acts 2 and Acts 20, the example is Sunday.
 - The evidence of 1 Corinthians 16 is also Sunday.
 - What principle, found in Scripture, would undo the day of the observance of the Lord's Supper?
 - John 4.21ff unbinds the physical location but not the day.

A Sensitive Issue

- Too often the question is posed - “When is a NT example binding?”
- After examining 1 Peter 2; Philippians 4; and 1 Corinthians 11, the question ought to be posed in this manner - “When is a NT example not binding?”
- Examples are important!
- We need to follow the example of Jesus - 1 Peter 2.21ff
- We need to receive the blessings that come through Jesus’ perfect life - 1 Peter 2.24

