

New Testament Authority – Pt. 2

How do we determine what God
approves?

God's Approval:

DETERMINED
OBJECTIVELY, NOT
SUBJECTIVELY

Definition of Terms

- Objective: based on facts rather than thoughts or opinions – *Encarta Dictionary*
- Subjective: Based on somebody's opinion or feelings rather than on facts or evidence – *Encarta Dictionary*
- Acceptable service to God is approached objectively, or based on facts revealed by God.

Subjectivism Illustrated

- Holiday gift-giving:
 - You are either a subjective (you decide) or an objective (you ask) gift-giver.
 - Most favor *subjective* giving over objective.
- These same feelings are assumed to be an acceptable standard to judge service to God.
 - The world believes God judges heart over actions.
 - This is why our insistence on authority for actions seems heartless and legalistic!
 - They believe if their heart gets it wrong, their zeal and God's grace/love will cover their shortcomings.

Religious Subjectivism

Objective Service Illustrated

- Holiday gift-giving:
 - If your mate tells you what they *truly* want, that if you love them you will do this, what will you do?
 - Would be acceptable to ignore this and continue to get them what *you* think they would like?
- If God has told us what He truly wants, that if we love Him we will do this, would it still be acceptable to act subjectively?

Objective Service to God

God Has Revealed What He Wants

- He is clear that loving Him means keeping His revealed will – 1 Jn. 5:3; 2:3-5
- If we think we know and love God, we must look to His revealed will for how to worship and serve Him!

**It is not in man to know His
own way – Jer. 10:23**

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**It is God's revelation that
allows us to act – Deut. 29:29**

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**Grace, peace, and salvation
are found in *knowledge* of
God – 2 Pet. 1:2-3**

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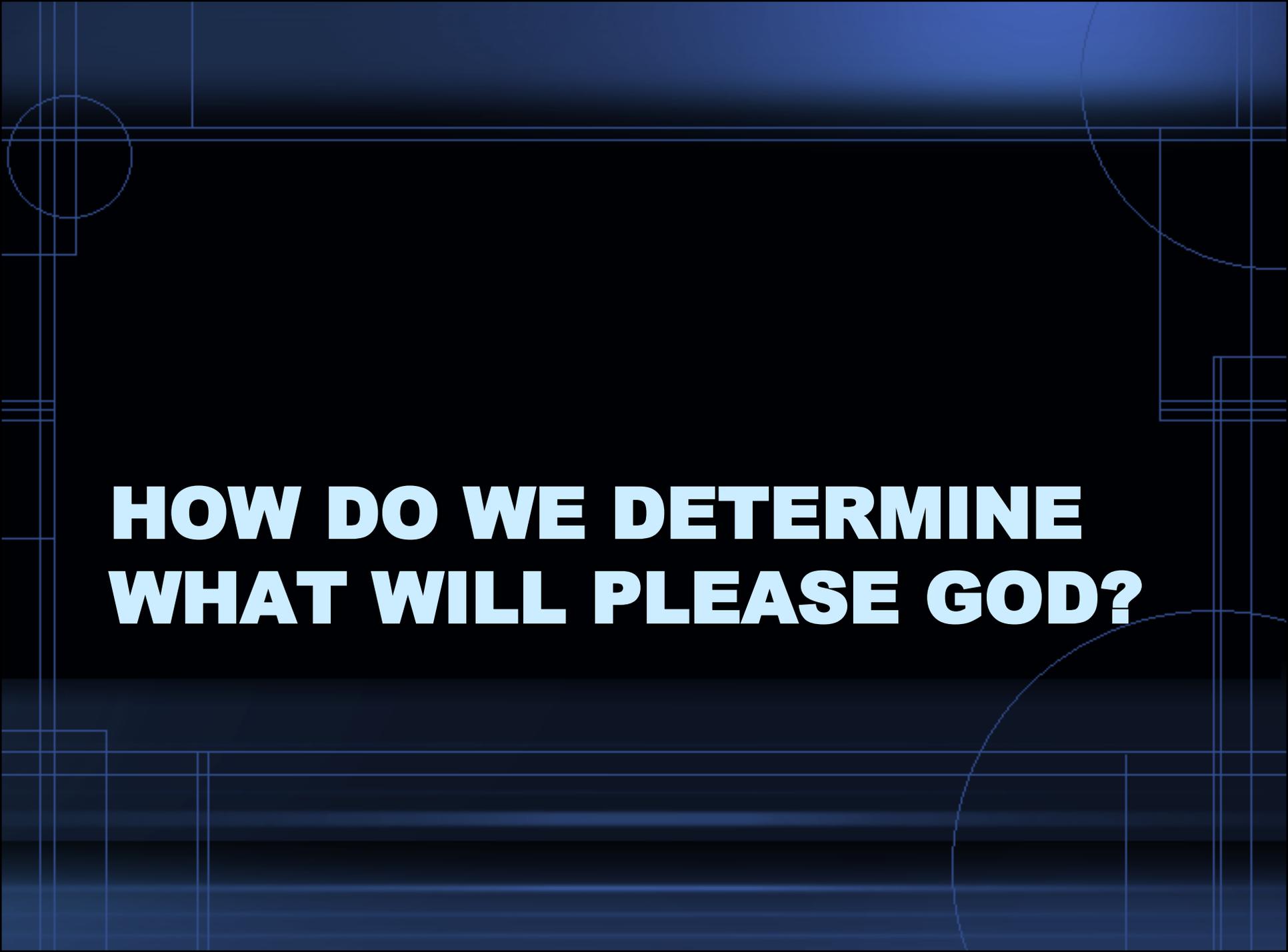
**We need revelation to know
God's will – 1 Cor. 2:11-12**

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- This is why we must depend solely on what is written – 1 Cor. 4:6

Objective Service to God



**HOW DO WE DETERMINE
WHAT WILL PLEASE GOD?**

Command

- Defined: “To direct authoritatively: order ...control” – *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary*
- Biblical commands are orders given by God in the Bible to direct/control our lives – Matt. 28:18-20
- Sample: Acts 2:38
- We must respect the *generic* or *specific* nature of biblical commands.

Determining God's Will

Generic Commands

Generic

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature’” – Mark 16:15

Determining God's Will

Specific Commands

Specific

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Statement

- Defined: Expression of fact that carries the same weight/effect as a command.
- Sample: Mark 16:16 – “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”
- This factual statement implies the necessity of obedience, or response.

Example

- Defined: “A representative sample 2: something forming a model to be followed or avoided” – *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary*
- Paul shows this definition to be biblically true – Phil. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:7-9
- Two things to remember:
 - Examples only authorize us to act in the way exemplified – Acts 20:7
 - Specific examples cannot limit generic authority – Mk. 16:15

Determining God's Will

Necessary Inferences

- Defined: A conclusion reasoned from facts or premises known
- Biblical inferences must be *necessary*, or *inescapable* – Acts 16:33-34
- Samples of inescapable conclusions:
 - Preaching Christ includes preaching baptism – Acts 8:5, 12; 8:35-36
 - Assembling necessitates a place to assemble – Heb. 10:25

Determining God's Will

Conclusion

- Without instructions from God revealed in the N.T. by command, statement, example, or inescapable conclusion, we have no authority to act!
- To act without one of these is subjective and presumptuous.
- God has given us an objective standard, which is the N.T.
- We show our knowledge and love of Him by our dependence on His revealed word.