



What about when God hasn't said anything about it? How should we treat his silence? That's an important question as we wrap up this little series on authority. We need to always remember what the LORD told us in [Isaiah 55:8](#): "My thoughts are \_\_\_\_\_ your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways."

Just because we think something is a good idea doesn't mean it is a good idea in God's eyes. Let's take a careful look at [Numbers 9:1-8](#) as an example.

And the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, "Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its \_\_\_\_\_ time. On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time; according to all its statutes and all its rules you shall keep it." So Moses told the people of Israel that they should keep the Passover. And they kept the Passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD \_\_\_\_\_ Moses, so the people of Israel did. And there were certain men who were unclean through touching a dead body, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day, and they came before Moses and Aaron on that day. And those men said to him, "We are unclean through touching a dead body. \_\_\_\_\_ are we kept from bringing the LORD's offering at its appointed time among the people of Israel?" And Moses said to them, "\_\_\_\_\_, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you."

As it turns out, the LORD *did* have something to say about what these unclean men should do ([9:9-14](#)), but Moses' approach showed great respect for the LORD's authority. His "wait" was a good answer to their "why?" We need to step very carefully when God hasn't said anything about it. After all, he told us a long time ago that "the \_\_\_\_\_ things" belong to him ([Deut 29:29](#)). What he has "revealed" belongs to us, "that we may do all" that he has told us to do ([Deut 12:32](#)).

There are relevant warnings in the New Testament as well. Notice the principle taught by the apostle Paul in [1 Corinthians 4:6](#)...

I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, that you may learn by us not to go \_\_\_\_\_ what is written...

Listen to what the apostle John wrote in [2 John 8-9](#)...

Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.

Everyone who goes on \_\_\_\_\_ and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever \_\_\_\_\_ in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

When God hasn't said anything about it, that's not necessarily a license for us to do whatever we want to do. One more time, why is respect for God's authority such a big deal? Let's talk about it...

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- “Why can’t we?” is an often asked question when it comes to religious matters. Have you ever heard someone ask that question? If so, about what sorts of issues or ideas?
- What impact should [Isaiah 55:6-11](#) have on our thinking when we’re asking, “Why can’t we?”
- In your own words, what are Christians being told in [Ephesians 5:15-17](#)? How should that passage impact the way we look at the silence of God?
- Looking back at [Numbers 9:1-14](#), what can we learn from that account?
- In [Numbers 9:8](#), Moses is quoted as saying, “Wait, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you.” Is this still a good approach? If so, why, and how can we take the same approach today?
- What should we make of [Deuteronomy 29:29](#)?
- “If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God” ([1 Pet 4:11](#)). What does this mean?
- Why is the principle taught in [1 Corinthians 4:6-7](#) absolutely foundational to our relationship with God?
- What should we take away from [2 John 4-11](#) as disciples of Christ?