

7. **Gray Areas** “*Only fools are positive.*” That means what we think it says, not what it says. (Prov 28:1) “*The wicked \_\_\_\_\_ when no man \_\_\_\_\_: but the righteous are \_\_\_\_\_ as a lion.*” No sincere, intelligent person is positive 100% of the time. Often we lack enough information to make a decision. In the case of Bible knowledge (Ps 119:130) “*the \_\_\_\_\_ of thy \_\_\_\_\_ giveth \_\_\_\_\_; it giveth \_\_\_\_\_ unto the simple.*” Nothing is black and white, rather gray, until we become enlightened. There are some things, try as we may, that we will never have *opportunity* to know. As we mature the gray areas should diminish more and more.
8. **Willful Ignorance Is No Excuse** Every human has areas of ignorance. There are things we *can* and *should* know and other things that we *cannot* know. Wisdom dictates that one (2 Tim 2:15) “*\_\_\_\_\_ to show thyself \_\_\_\_\_ unto God*” so that he is thoroughly (Eph 5:17) “*\_\_\_\_\_ what the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is.*” God knows our capabilities.
9. **A Cop Out** Jesus painted in vivid “word pictures” the judgment scene (Mt 25:31-46) showing that those who shirk His commands are accountable. He said to the ones who substituted His Will for a theology of their own design (Mt 7:21-23), “*I \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_: depart \_\_\_\_\_ me, ye that work iniquity.*” It’s insufficient to reply, “It was all gray to me. I didn’t know what to do.”
10. **Too Binding – Too Loose** We must avoid binding where God has not bound and loosing where God has not loosed. The Pharisees took great pride in their *legalism*. Jesus scathingly indicted their hypocrisy: (Mt 23:24) “*Ye \_\_\_\_\_ guides, which \_\_\_\_\_ at a \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_.*” Paul warned of going too far in the other direction. He substituted himself and Apollos (1 Cor 4:6), as they had been falsely accused of being cult leaders, saying “*that ye might \_\_\_\_\_ in us \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ that which is \_\_\_\_\_.*” **A stringent warning:** (Rev 22:18-19) “*If any man shall \_\_\_\_\_ unto these things--- if any man shall \_\_\_\_\_ from.*” Plagues, damnation and eternal separation from God are *equally* horrible!
11. **How Do We Separate?** How can we distinguish the direct command’s specific directive from the generic command’s flexibility? (a) We must never bind with specificity anything not based on confirmable truth requiring positive or negative involvement. (b) We must never relegate that which is based on firm doctrinal footing as optional. God (Deut 30:19) has “*\_\_\_\_\_ before*” us “*life and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and cursing.*” It’s up to us to “*\_\_\_\_\_ life.*”
12. **Examples** The Bible says (Lk 22:17) that Jesus “*took the \_\_\_\_\_, and gave \_\_\_\_\_, and said, Take this, and \_\_\_\_\_ among yourselves.*” Some bind the container instead of the contents. We recommend TPBS Lesson #215, The One Cup Controversy. The Bible specifically commands “*\_\_\_\_\_ and making \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_*” in worship (Col 3:16; Eph 5:19) but many take liberty to add mechanical music. This is loosening what God approved and injecting man’s preference. We recommend TPBS Lessons #81-84, Mechanical Music.
13. **Do These Two Examples Have A Middle?** In the first instance one (cup) is singular and two or more (cups) are plural. Couldn’t we compromise and have multiple containers and acapella music this Sunday and one cup and mechanical music next Sunday? Some ask, Is this the *middle* ground? If so the *middle* is scriptural one Sunday and unscriptural the next. (Rom 14:22) “*\_\_\_\_\_ is he that condemneth \_\_\_\_\_ himself in that thing which he \_\_\_\_\_.*”
14. **Summation** This lesson only scratches the surface. Whole doctrines have been built on faulty biblical premises. It is as sinful today to bind and loose at will as it was for the Pharisees and Sadducees who were respectively ultra conservative and flamboyantly liberal. (1 Pet 4:11) “*If any man \_\_\_\_\_, let him speak as the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; if any man \_\_\_\_\_, let him do it as of the \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ giveth.*” Let us (Jas 1:19) be “*\_\_\_\_\_ to hear.*”