

## OH YEAH! WHO SAID YOU COULD DO THAT?



This is frequently the interrogation of one child to another. Yet, it may reveal a precocious wisdom much needed by those of riper years. The question discloses a recognition of, and respect for authority.

Wise men, generally speaking, charged the state of affairs which began in the late fifties and early sixties with its attendant riots, mob violence, destruction of property, attacks on law enforcement officials, etc. to an increasing lack of recognition and respect for authorized authority. It was seen to be increasing, because the past generation saw the inception or reviving of a philosophy which emphasized the supposed merits of free and unrestrained living. Many people contemplated covetously, though covertly, the prospect of living a life guided only by one's own sensual desires. The generations since are witnessing a manifestation of the fruit of this "lack of restraint". If it does not culminate soon, one can only shudder at the probabilities that await our world if the Lord allows time to continue.

One of the most appalling things about all of this is the complete apathy which characterizes so many people. The most casual student of world history should be able to recollect that every civilization that has continued long in its worship of the god of "loose living" has ultimately come to deterioration. Freedom has responsibilities.

A little child usually knows he and other people have, or should have restrictions or limitations. Hence, the question: "**Oh yeah! Who said you could do that?**" This principle is also true in the spiritual realm. Freedom from sin involves obedience to Him who confers this freedom.

Jesus said, "...Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 18:3) Christianity is a monarchy. Christ reigns as the supreme head. "And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church," (Eph. 1:22) He further said, "...All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." (Mt. 28:18) Paul wrote, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, (by the authority—cab) giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col. 3:17) These passages teach decisively that spiritual instruction must be by the authority of the Lord.

The many and conflicting religious doctrines and principles being propagated, under the pretense of Christianity, furnish ample evidence that many professed religionists do not recognize or respect the authority of Christ. How can people who have no respect for authority properly instruct others to have respect? Jesus said, "...if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch." (Mt. 15:14) Paul wrote, "You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?" (Rom. 2:21)

We will do well to ask the person who teaches a way of salvation that is different from the Lord's way: "**Who said you could do that?** To the man who

says, "Every man can worship God in his own way", we ask, "**Who said you could do that?**" To the one who is sure you can join any church you choose, we reply, "**Who said you could do that?**" To those who teach the Lord's church should be engaged in entertainment schemes, world wide benevolent programs, and the building and maintaining of human organizations in which funds, oversight, and work is centralized, we ask sincerely and with great concern, "**Who said you could do that?**" If the Lord did not authorize it, it cannot be done in His name, because "**He did not say you could do that!**"

Disciples of worldly pleasure seek to rebel against authorized authority, but our King says of His disciples, "*They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*" (John 17:16)

**Anarchy is a sorry state of affairs, especially in the Lord's Kingdom.**  
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