

# Why So Restrictive?

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Here are some modern examples of unnecessary restrictions and infringements on believers.

1. Who says a congregation cannot select and ordain its own elders/pastors/bishops to oversee and feed the local congregation? (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5).

2. Who says a local congregation cannot do its work without connection to a superstructure organization (headquarters, diocese, or board)? (Philippians 1:1).

3. Who says congregational singing is to become secondary to solos, choirs, instruments, and professional musicians? Why can the whole church not participate in worshipping God? (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).

4. Who says that a preacher has to be “called” and graduate from a seminary to preach God’s Word to a church? Is he necessarily better than one who studies diligently himself? (Acts 8:4).

5. Who says the unsaved become saved by prayer? (John 9:31).

6. Who says the priesthood of believers cannot partake of the Lord’s supper except monthly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually? Why deny members the weekly communion of the early church? (Acts 20:7).

7. Who says modern-day departures from the biblical pattern of the home have improved morality in our nation? (Matthew

19:3–9).

8. Who says we should subject sheep to doctrines of human origin? Why not give them sound doctrine that pleases God and helps them grow? (2 John 1:9; Acts 2:42). Why lead members to worship in vain by corrupting God's pattern? (Matthew 15:9).

9. Who says we should divide members by teaching conflicting doctrines that differ from the New Testament? (1 Corinthians 1:10; John 17:20–21).

10. Who says not everybody can be saved and go to heaven? Who says one is required to have a miraculous religious experience to be saved? (John 14:1–2).

Why require more than the Scriptures? Let us all unite in simply obeying God's Word. **–adapted from Steven Higginbotham, Knoxville, Tennessee**

*“They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders.”*

Matthew 23:4