

## Guilty as Charged; At Least *Partially*

“As a singular, yet rather stunning, example of this abuse of Colossians 3:17, I would refer you to the web site of [Brian A. Yeager](#), a very vocal critic of mine for a good many years. Brian is the preacher for the *Sunrise Acres Church of Christ*, which is a militant *Non-Institutional* group in El Paso, Texas (a city about 90 miles south of where I live). El Paso is a fairly large city with at least a dozen or more congregations of the *Churches of Christ*, and yet underneath the address of the group for which Brian preaches he has placed the following statement on his web site: “Sadly, the only sound congregation in town.” This gives you some idea of the mindset of this man and his little band of disciples. As a devoted legalistic patternist, Brian A. Yeager sees Colossians 3:17 as a mandate pertaining to *authority* for all practices of a local congregation, particularly with respect to the use of their building. Eating in the building is a sin -- as per Col. 3:17. Fellowship halls are a sin -- as per Col. 3:17. And on and on they go. Indeed, Yeager has devoted a special page on his web site to [Fellowship Halls](#), on which he shows pictures of the sinful fellowship halls of various apostate congregations. *Cuba Avenue Church of Christ*, where I serve as the pulpit minister and one of the elders, is shown first. At the top of this web page is the statement: “They built these with the Lord's money by whose authority?” Under this is the statement: “There is NO AUTHORITY -- Colossians 3:17.” Again, this is just one example of the extremist views of the legalists when they take a passage of Scripture and twist it to their own purposes...



There are various ways of interpreting 'do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus' [The Expositor's Bible Commentary, vol. 11, p. 216]. The hardened legalists, of course, will accept only *one* interpretation of this phrase -- "in the name of," in *their* limited view, is a reference to nothing other than biblical *Authority*. Therefore, they will boldly declare that this passage simply means there must be "book, chapter and verse" for *everything* that is done with a church building and in a "worship service." This is why they quote Col. 3:17 when attacking fellowship halls and kitchens. As Brian A. Yeager said, "There is no authority" for such things. This simply means that they can't be found in the NT writings. Of course, neither can church buildings. The NT documents are silent about *them* also. The retort, of course, is that a church building is an "expedient," whereas a fellowship hall or kitchen is an "innovation." Oh, what games we play when we regard the inspired writings of the New Covenant as a legal code book. Thus, "authority" is established both by what *is* and *isn't* found there (the latter being the source of the greatest conflict, for in the presence of *silence* the legalists *speak* the loudest)" (Al Maxey; 11/9/2007; "An Attitude of Gratitude, Reflective Study of Col. 3:17"; Reflections; <http://www.zianet.com/maxey/reflx325.htm>).