

What is authority?

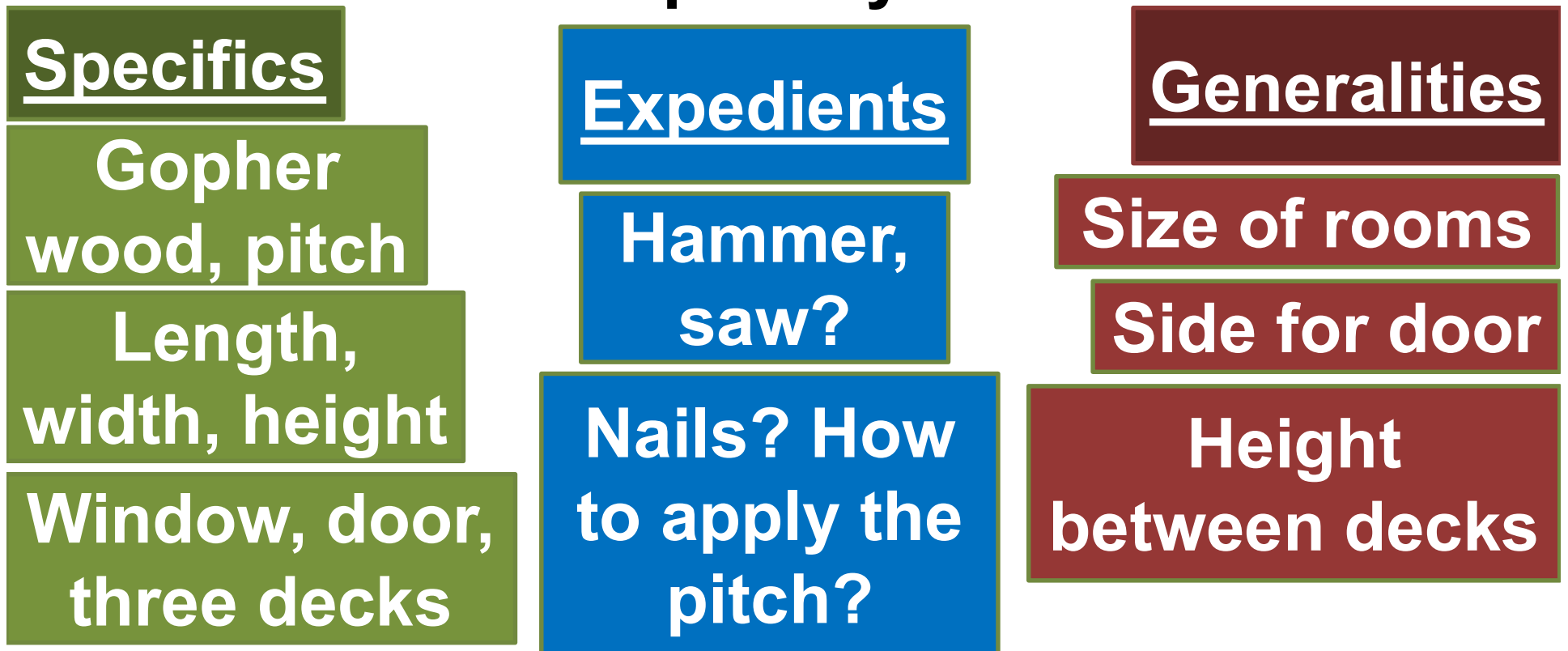
**Justification or grounds by which
rule or principle of law is determined
and applied**

Bible Authority



Express authority: Authority that is explicitly given, either by command or approved example

Implied authority: Unspecific authority to do, or use, that which assists in performing that which is expressly authorized



Gen. 6:13-22 - Noah followed the commands of God, and used lawful expedients to fulfill them – none of which “added to” or “took away”

Expedients and God's Authority

- **Expedient** – “the use of a resource that expedites the fulfillment of God's Will (authority) without adding to or taking away from it”
 - Church building, song books, song leaders, PowerPoint, pews, class rooms/material, supplies, electricity, parking lot, website, baptistry, etc.
 - Are these things “necessary”? No, but they are logical and reasonable to carry out God's Will (not adding, subtracting)

Expedients and God's Authority

Express Authority

- Go into all the world (**Mt. 28:18**)
- Sing (**Eph. 5:19**)
- Assemble (**Acts 20:7**)
- Lord's Supper (**I Cor. 11**)
- Take up collection (**I Cor. 16:1**)

Implied Authority

- Car, plane, radio, TV
- Song books, leaders
- ~~Inst. Music?~~
- In building, park, etc.
- How many times?
- ~~Benevolent institutions~~
- Using trays?

Expedient: That which is necessary or practical to fulfill commandments of God

Expedients and God's Authority

- Expedients – Four Criteria
 - Must be lawful – Robbing a bank for the treasury? “Nudist” church?
 - Must not add to or take away from worship or organization of the church as commanded
 - Must accomplish the work God has authorized – fellowship halls, kitchens, blood drives (“good” works not authorized for the church)
 - Must be mindful of edification, **1 Cor. 10:23**

How should we establish Biblical authority?

- **Do not assume that silence is authoritative! God's silence works in tandem to command, example, and necessary inference**
- **Start first with express authority (command, example, necessary inference) to determine the authority for an expedient (implied authority)**
- **We must stand in that which God has given authority, not take liberties - See Lev. 10:1-4, Matt. 7:21-23**