

Bible Study Methods

Observing, Interpreting and Applying Biblical Truth

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

My students will understand and implement an inductive, systematic approach to bible study, enabling them to observe, interpret, and apply Scripture to their lives and to the lives to whom they minister.

Course Goals

❖ Cognitive

1. The student will know the general hermeneutical principles which can be applied to all Scripture.
2. The student will be able to recognize different forms of literature in the Bible.
3. The Student will know the special hermeneutical principles to be applied to different genres of Scripture.
4. The student will understand the inductive approach to Scripture.
5. The student will know how to do word studies of crucial terms found in the Bible.
6. The student will be able to determine whether a phrase, or passage should be interpreted literally or figuratively.

❖ Emotive

1. The student will have a greater appreciation for the variety, complexity, and value of Scripture to the life of the believer.
2. The student will have confidence in his/her skills in observing, interpreting, and applying Scripture.

❖ Effective

1. The student will consistently study the Bible for himself/herself.
2. The student will carefully and accurately interpret Scripture.
3. The student will daily apply Scripture to his/her life.

I. Presuppositions

A. Basic Presuppositions

1. We presuppose that God exists.
 2. We presuppose that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
 3. We presuppose that the Bible is true and reliable.
- ❖ If these presuppositions are true, and they are, then an objective study of the Bible will support them.

B. Other presuppositions

1. The Bible is a literary collection
 - a) The Bible is literature
Example: Luke 10:30-36
 - b) The Bible is a collection
2. Since the Bible is the Word of God it reveals: God's character, purposes, and plan.

3. God has communicated to us through his revealed Word in such a way that we can understand it for ourselves.
4. The Bible consists of progressive revelation.
5. The Bible interprets itself.
6. The Bible does not contradict itself.

II. Common Excuses made for not studying the Scripture

- A. Lack of _____
- B. Lack of _____
- C. Lack of _____
- D. Lack of _____
- E. Lack of _____
- F. Lack of _____

III. Reasons why Bible Study is necessary

A. In order to Grow spiritually

1. 1 Peter 2:2

2. Hebrews 5:11-16

3. II Timothy 3:16,17

B. In order to understand God's will- Romans 12:2

C. In order to obey God's Word- James 1:22

D. In order to defend our faith- I Peter 3:15,16

E. To Protect from False Teaching

1. Colossians 1:15-

2. I Corinthians 15:29-

3. Mark 16:18-

4. Mark 10:30-

IV. The Necessary attitude with which to study the Bible

A. Psalms 119:13-18-

B. 1 Cor 2:6-16-

C. Hebrews 11: 1-2,6-

D. James 1:22-25-

V. Hermeneutical Definitions

A. Hermeneutics: The science (principles) and art (task) of Bible Study.

1. A Science because...

2. An Art because...

B. General Hermeneutics: The general guidelines that apply to the interpretation of the _____ of Scripture.

C. Special Hermeneutics: The specific guidelines that apply to a specific _____ of Scripture.

D. Inductive Approach-

E. Deductive Approach-

IV. The Goal of Hermeneutics: To understand what the _____ author intended to communicate to the _____ recipients.

VI. Hermeneutical Barriers

A. Historical Barrier

B. Geographical Barrier

C. Linguistic Barrier

D. Cultural Barrier

E. Philosophical Barrier

VII. General Hermeneutical Guidelines

A. The Inductive Principle

B. Historical Principle

C. Grammatical Principle

D. Contextual Principle:

1. Historical Context

2. Literary Context

E. Literal Principle

VIII. Essential Hermeneutical Steps

A. Observation

B. Interpretation

C. Application

D. Correlation

OBSERVATION

I. The Goal of Observation:

II. An overview of the Step of Observation: Things that must be observed

A. Context:

1. The Literary Environment

2. The Historical Environment

B. Structure

1. Grammatical Structure

2. Literary Structure

C. Form

D. Terms

III. Observation of the context

A. The importance of context

B. Things to notice — questions to answer

1. Historical questions

- a) Who is the _____?
- b) When was it _____?
- c) Who are the _____?
- d) What was the _____ for writing this epistle/narrative/etc?
- e) What cultural aspects are involved?
- f) What is the religious, economic, and political climate like?

2. Literary questions

- a) What is the general atmosphere of this literary work?
- b) What _____ of literary form is being used?
- c) What are the major and minor _____?
- d) What kind of _____ progression takes place?

3. Theological questions

- a) Progressive Revelation
 - i. What theological truths have already been _____?
 - ii. How does the _____ taught in this text relate to previously revealed truth?
- b) Use of Theological Concepts
 - i. Does this writer use this Theological concept in other writings?

ii. Do other authors use this Theological concept in their writings?

4. Selection questions

a) The Biblical writers did not include everything they knew about their subject matter.

b) They made their _____ of facts and information based upon their purposes.

i. What did the author select?

ii. What did the author choose not to include?

IV. Observation of literary form

A. Overview

1. The Bible is not a theological _____

2. The Bible is a _____ collection.

3. Different literary forms communicate information in different ways

4. In general, any given text will have a _____ literary form.

B. Narrative

1. Generally tells a _____ and therefore deals with people, places and events in an historical way.

2. The main focus or progression may be largely _____

(Genesis 12-50), _____ (Exodus, Numbers, Chronicles),
_____ (Joshua, Acts) or _____ (Gospel
of John)

C. Discourse / Teaching

1. Primarily involves clear and direct speaking, teaching, preaching or writing.
2. Examples:

D. Parabolic literature

1. Teaches _____ truth using _____ stories, illustrations and memorable phrases
2. Examples:

E. Wisdom literature

1. Very practical and useful for everyday life, because it deals with the experiences, thoughts and emotions of everyday life
2. Examples:

F. Poetry

1. Hebrew and other Near-Eastern poetry has a different form and structure than European or Western poetry
2. Poetry also deals with the experiences, thoughts and emotions of everyday life
3. Examples:

G. Prophetic / Apocalyptic literature

1. Sometimes deals with the _____ future, but more often with the present or very near future
2. Often involves _____ judgment if an appropriate response is not taken.
3. Examples:

V. Observation of the structure

A. Grammatical structural relationships

B. Literary structural relationships

1. Comparison
2. Contrast
3. Repetition
4. Continuity
5. Continuation
6. Climax
7. Pivot
8. Particularization / Generalization
9. Cause to Effect / Effect to Cause

10. Goal / Purpose and Means

11. Explanation

12. Preparation or Introduction

13. Summarization

14. Harmony

C. Things to remember about literary structural relationships

1. This is not an exhaustive list.
2. It is possible to fit more than one category.
3. Sometimes it can be difficult to determine which category is _____ and which is _____.

VI. Observation of terms

A. Definition:

B. The Importance of Context

1. Example 1: World

a) John 3:16 “For God so loved the world”

b) 1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world”

c) John 17:5 “before the world began”

2. Example 2: Salvation

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

3. Example 3: Baptism

a) Acts 2:41

b) Acts 11:16

c) Matt 3:11

d) 1 Cor 10:2

e) 1 Cor 10:2

C. Importance of Authorial Usage

1. In the same book of the Bible
2. In a different book of the Bible

D. Importance of Biblical Usage

E. Importance of Grammatical Usage

1. Nouns

- a) Subject
- b) Object
- c) Predicate Nominative

2. Pronouns

3. Prepositions

- a) Means
- b) Accompaniment
- c) Motion
- d) Location
- e) Time

4. Verbs

- a) Past
- b) Present
- c) Future
- d) Continuous Past

5. Conjunctions

- a) But-
- b) Just as-
- c) Because-
- d) So that-
- e) Therefore-
- f) Although-
- g) Also-

F. Different types of terms:

1. Routine: Definition is obvious and not significant for understanding a passage.

2. Non-Routine

a)

b)

c)

G. Literal, Figurative or Symbolic?

1. Interpret literally _____.

2. Realize that figurative and symbolic language nearly always has a _____ referent.

3. Figurative language is not the _____ of literal. It may be better to be referred to as figurative-literal verses ordinary-literal.

4. We must always seek to find out what the original author intended to communicate to the original recipients.

VII. The Observation Process Illustrated

A. Observation of the whole (context, literary form and major structure)

B. Observation of the parts

C. Observation of the details

Observing the Whole

Biblical passage:		Synthetic title of the passage:			
Author:		Recipients:			
Place of writing:	Date of writing:	Primary literary form:			
Circumstances:					
Main divisions					
Minor divisions (with verses)					
Summaries					
Major Themes (with verses)					

Observing the Parts

Structural Outline of 2 John 1-6

(From)the elder

To the chosen lady
her children
whom I love
in the truth
whom all love
who know the truth

because of the truth
which lives in us
which will be with us forever

Grace, mercy and peace
will be with us
from God the Father
from Jesus Christ
the Father's Son

It has given me great joy
to find some of your children walking in the truth
just as the Father commanded

And now
I am writing a command
(not a new command)
(one we have had from the beginning)
that we love one another
(that is) that we walk in obedience to his commands
You have heard his command
(from the beginning)
that you walk in love

Observing the Details

Observations of 2 John 1-6	
Interesting and Important Details	Related Questions
Who?	
1. The elder is the writer 2. The chosen lady is a recipient 3. The lady's children are recipients 4. "Those who love the truth" 5. God the Father 6. Jesus Christ, the Father's son	Who is the elder? Who is the chosen lady? Who are the lady's children?
Where?	
1. (Place of writing??) 2. (Where the lady lives??)	Is it important to know the place of writing? Is it important to know where the lady lives?
When?	
1. (Date of writing??)	Is it important to know the date of writing?
What?	
1. The lady is "chosen" 2. The writer loves the lady and her children 3. Those who know the truth love them 4. The writer loves them because of the truth 5. The truth lives in us 6. The truth will be in us forever 7. Truth is a key word 8. The lady's children are walking in the truth 9. The elder rejoices because of the lady's children 10. Love is a key word	What does "chosen" mean Is "the lady" a real person? What does it mean to "know the truth" Why would the writer love them because of the truth? What is the truth that lives in us? How does the truth live in us? What does it mean to walk in the truth? What is the relationship between love and truth?

INTERPRETATION

I. The Task and Purpose of Interpretation

A. Task: To understand what the _____ author (inspired by God) intended to communicate to the original recipients.

B. Purpose: To understand the message of the original author **so that** we might accurately apply this message to _____ and the lives of those to whom we _____.

II. Inadequate Hermeneutical Approaches

A. The Allegorical Approach

1. Description of the allegorical approach

a)

b)

c)

“A theological poem setting for the ageless struggle between the kingdom of light and kingdom of darkness.” Bill Mounce¹

¹ Quoted from Bill Mounce's commentary on the book of Revelation.

3. Problems with the allegorical approach

- a)
- b) Pride in seeking a “_____”
- c) Leads to taking the Bible out of the hands of the average person
- d) Major weakness:

1. An Example of Biblical Allegory:

- Galatians 4:21

2. Comparing the Allegorizing of Paul to that of the Catholic Church

a) Paul

- The historical meaning is _____ and true
- Parallels are drawn to make a point
- Paul did not say the allegory was the “_____” of Genesis 16
- When Paul allegorized, he said he was doing so.

b) Catholic Church and early church fathers:

- The historical meaning is _____ (if even true)

- The “_____” meaning is the true meaning.
- The “deeper” meaning is the _____ of the record.
- Everything in the OT may be allegorized.

3. A Word about Typology

a) Definition of Typology: OT person, event, or thing having historical reality and designed by God to prefigure (foreshadow) in a preparatory way a real person, event, or thing so designated in the NT and that corresponds to and fulfills the type.

b) Special Hermeneutics regarding typology

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

v.

vi.

c) Positions Concerning Typology

i. Some people (hyper-typers) see types in _____

ii. Some people see types only in what the NT authors tell us are types

- iii. Some have a middle position of _____ or
_____ stated in Scripture

B. The Mystical Approach

1. Definition of the mystical approach:
2. Principles of the mystical approach
 - a) One's level of _____ to God affects one's ability to understand the Scriptures
 - b) What does this passage mean to me / to you?
3. Vocabulary of the mystical approach
 - a) I feel that . . .
 - b) That's just your interpretation . . .
 - c) That's not what God showed me . . .
 - d) God told me . . .
 - e) God gave this verse to me . . .

C. The Rational Approach

1. Reason must determine what parts of _____ we are to accept as genuine.
2. Truth is knowable only through _____

- a. Deny the supernatural nature of the Word of God.
 - b. Whatever could not be conceived by the unaided mind could not be true, and must be relegated as myths and legends.
 - c. The _____ recorded in Scripture are not true.
3. If the Biblical account is not “_____”, then it must not be true

D. The neo-orthodox approach

1. In some ways is the middle ground between the rational and orthodox view of Scripture.
2. The major task of the neo-orthodox is to strip away the _____ of the historical wrappings of the Bible in order to discover the truth contained within it.
 - “Search for the Historical Jesus.” Jesus Seminars.
3. The Bible as revelation from God is not the result of a historical event (inspiration at the time of writing)
4. Revelation is a present experience that happens when we read the Bible - so that only *then* does it become the Word of God.
 - a) Karl Barth (1886-1968)
 - b) Emil Brunner (1889-1966)
 - c) Reinhold Neibuhr (1892-1971)

E. The common problem with all these approaches:

III. The Literal Hermeneutic Method

A. The normal hermeneutic method

B. Historical, Grammatical, Contextual, Literal Interpretation of Scripture

C. Why use this method?

1. Because of the purpose of _____:

2. Because of the need for _____:

3. The Bible warns against taking away from or adding to the inspired words of Scripture (words have meanings)

4. The example of the Bible

a) The _____ concerning Christ were fulfilled literally (over 300)

b) The _____ writers and _____ himself accepted the historicity and authority of the Hebrew Scriptures

c) The Biblical writers and Christ himself used a literal hermeneutic when interpreting the _____ Scriptures

D. Principles of Interpretation

1. We should interpret normally: A “_____” reading of the text usually gives the most accurate results

➤ When we read “normally” it is usually obvious When the

terms are literal, figurative or symbolic

2. We should interpret according to the normal rules of grammar:

3. We should interpret in light of the literary and historical
_____.

4. We should interpret by comparing _____ with
Scripture.

5. We should interpret _____: Our personal
theology, philosophy or opinions should not influence our
interpretation

E. What should I say when explaining a passage?

1. According to the Bible . . .

2. The Bible teaches that . . .

3. I believe that the most Biblical interpretation is . . .

4. There are several possible interpretations, but on the basis of
the context it seems that the best is . . .

IV. Interpreting with the Proper Attitude

A. The Bible is _____ and usually its meaning becomes
clear with a little work

B. The Bible is _____ and the apparent contradictions
can be explained

C. We must remain _____ - even when we think we understand a passage

V. Example of Interpretation – practicing the question and answer technique

THE BOOK OF PHILEMON
Appeal to Welcome Back a Runaway Slave in Love

Introduction (1-3)

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker,

² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

Possible Answers

Concerning Paul:

1. Who is Paul? What do we know about him? Is he mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
2. Why does Paul describe himself as a “prisoner of Christ Jesus”?
3. Is this to be understood figuratively or literally?
4. Does Paul describe himself in this way in any other letter?
5. Does Paul describe himself in any other way in other letters?
6. Why does Paul not describe himself as an Apostle of Jesus Christ?

Questions

Possible Answers

Concerning Timothy:

1. Who is Timothy? What do we know about him? Is he mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
2. What is his relationship with Paul?
3. Why would Timothy be with Paul? Is he also a prisoner?
4. What does “brother” mean? Why does Paul use this term to describe Timothy?

5. Should Timothy be considered as one of the writers of this letter?
6. Is Timothy mentioned in any other of Paul's letters?

Possible Answers

Questions

Concerning Philemon:

1. Who is Philemon? What do we know about him? Is he mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
2. What is his relationship to Paul? To Timothy? To others in the letter?
3. Why does he describe Philemon as "our dear friend"?
4. Why does he describe Philemon as a "fellow worker"?
5. Why does he not describe Philemon as a "brother"?
6. Who is Paul including when he says "our" friend and fellow worker? Does he mean just Timothy, or is he including others?
7. Does Paul describe anyone else using these terms in this letter? In other letters?
8. What is Paul's reason for writing to Philemon?
9. What appears to be Paul's purpose for writing to Philemon?
10. Is this letter to Philemon only?

Possible Answers

Questions

Concerning Apphia:

1. Who is Apphia. What do we know about her? Is she mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
2. What is her relationship to Paul? To Timothy? To Philemon? To others in the letter?
3. Why does Paul describe her as "our sister"? Does he refer to others in this way in this letter? In other letters?
4. Why is Paul including her as a recipient of this letter?

Possible Answers

Possible Answers**Questions****Concerning Archippus:**

1. Who is Archippus? What do we know about him? Is he mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
2. What is his relationship to Paul? To Timothy? To Philemon? To others in the letter?
3. Why does Paul describe him as “our fellow soldier”? Does he refer to others in this way in this letter? In other letters?
4. Why is Paul including him as a recipient of this letter?

Possible Answers

Questions**Concerning the “church that meets in your home”:**

1. What church is this? In what city? In whose home?
2. What kind of church would it be?
3. What is Paul’s relationship to this church?
4. What is the role of Apphia and Archippus in this church?
5. Is Philemon a member of this church?
6. Why would Paul include the church as a recipient of a personal letter?

Possible Answers

Questions**Concerning the phrase “grace and peace”:**

1. Why would Paul use this greeting?
2. Does this greeting have special significance to the Paul? To the recipients?
3. Has Paul used this greeting elsewhere?
4. Does Paul always use this greeting? If not, what other kinds of greetings does he use?

Possible Answers

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5. Paul seems to be speaking for God. How is the possible? Why would he do this?
 6. Why does Paul name God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ separately?
 7. Why does Paul not mention the Holy Spirit?
-

Paul's Thankfulness for Philemon's Faithfulness and Love (4-7)

- ⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,
⁵ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.
⁶ I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.
⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.
-

Questions

Possible Answers

Concerning Paul's prayers:

1. What appears to be Paul's general attitude toward Philemon?
2. What appears to be Paul's attitude toward God?
3. What appears to be Paul's attitude and practice concerning prayer?
4. What is Paul's overall reason for writing this section?
5. What is Paul's overall purpose for writing section?
6. Why does Paul begin by speaking about prayer?
7. What kinds of things does Paul pray about?
8. Why is Paul thankful to the Lord for Philemon?
9. How has Paul heard about these things?
10. What do we positive things do we know about Philemon?
11. Is there a relationship between Philemon's faith in Christ and his love for the saints?
12. How did Philemon came to faith in Christ?
13. What does Paul mean by "saint"?

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14. Why does Paul want Philemon to be “active” in sharing his faith?
 15. What are the “good things we have in Christ”?
 16. Why is it important for Philemon to understand these things?

Questions

Concerning Paul’s response:

1. What is one direct result of Philemon’s love toward the saints?
2. What does it mean that he “refreshed the hearts of the saints”? Had he done something specific?
3. What is an indirect result of Philemon’s love?
4. Why would this cause Paul to be joyful and encouraged?

Possible Answers

Paul's Recommendation of Onesimus to Philemon (8-16)

- ⁸ Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do,
- ⁹ yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—
- ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.
- ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful to both you and to me.
- ¹² I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.
- ¹³ I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel.
- ¹⁴ But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced.
- ¹⁵ Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—
- ¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He was very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.
-

Questions

Possible Answers

Paul's Request to Philemon on Behalf of Onesimus (17-21)

¹⁷ So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

¹⁸ If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me.

¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self.

²⁰ I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Possible Questions

Possible Answers

Final Request and Greetings (22-25)

²² And one thing more: Prepare a guest room for me, because I hope to be restored to you in answer to your prayers.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings.

²⁴ And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Questions

Possible Answers

VI. Special Hermeneutics: Principles of Interpretation - in relation to different literary forms

A. Narratives (Historical Narrative, not Story)

1. Old Testament narratives usually do not teach _____, although they often provide the basis for doctrines more clearly revealed elsewhere.
2. New Testament narratives _____ teach doctrine, but usually in the context of a specific person speaking.
3. Narratives are _____ records of what actually happened (both good and bad), but do not necessarily provide examples of what does or should happen every time.

Descriptive vs. Prescriptive

- Is the Scripture simply describing what took place?
- Is the Scripture prescribing for us principles to be followed today?

1.

2.

3.

4. All narratives represent _____ made by the author.

B. Wisdom literature and poetry

1. Wisdom literature deals with the experiences of _____ life and the response to those experiences.

2. Wisdom literature tends to deal with _____ principles rather than with _____ guarantees - principles are not the same as promises.
3. Wisdom literature tends to provide general _____ rather than specific commands.

C. New Testament Epistles

1. The New Testament letters were generally written to _____ people in specific situations and not directly to us.
2. The _____ recipients may have been completely aware of certain contextual factors that the writer doesn't discuss.
3. What God wants us to know, he has communicated to us; what he has not told us may consume or hold our interest, but we must not be dogmatic on points that are uncertain.
4. The author may have been dealing with a specific _____ or problem that doesn't exist today or doesn't exist in exactly the same way.
5. Specific doctrines are often taught or clarified, although not necessarily in a _____ manner.

D. Prophetic and Apocalyptic Literature

1. The _____ Testament prophetic literature was written during a very specific time in the life of Israel and for very specific reasons.

2. Old Testament prophecy often tended to be God giving a very direct message, word-for-word, through a chosen person.
3. _____, prophecy had a message for the present or very near future, rather than for the distant future.
4. Apocalyptic literature is very _____, many symbols often times interpreted after the vision.

VII. Doing a Word Study

A. The ultimate goal

To determine a word's _____ meaning in the _____ context... ...so that we can better understand the given passage and follow the writer's argument

B. Errors in word studies

1. Root Fallacy
2. Combining of meanings
3. Semantic Anachronism
4. Over Analysis

C. Choosing words to study

1. Repeated terms or concepts

2. Key theological terms

3. Hapex legomena or rarely used words

4. Highly debated terms

D. Order of study

1. Study the _____ Usage of the term (except the original author)

➤ How do all the _____ authors use this particular term?

➤ What are the varying lexical usages of the term in question?

2. Study the _____ usage of the term (except the original text)

3. Study the authorial usage in the _____ book.

4. Study the authorial usage in the _____ context.

APPLICATION

I. The Purpose of Bible study: Application/Life Change

II. The Major Steps of Application THEN/ALWAYS/NOW

A. THEN-What did the original author intend to communicate to the original recipients

B. ALWAYS-What is the Timeless Truth that is applicable to all generations-ALWAYS

C. NOW-What is the application to the contemporary audience-NOW

1. Determining the _____

2. Applying the _____ to the Needs

III. The Problem of Relevance

A. Practical commands that are equivalent to the principle

1. (Leviticus 19:18)

2. (Eph. 6:1)

3. (1 Tim. 5:1)

B. Practical commands that are not equivalent to the principle

1. (Rom 16:16)
2. (Eph. 4:26b)
3. (Matt. 5:41)

C. Guidelines for Dealing with the Problem

1. The command is completely _____ - _____
 - a. The command contains _____ the principle and the appropriate behavior
 - b. The principle and the behavior are _____ applicable in all cultures at all times
 - Love your enemies. (Matt. 5:44)
 - Don't lie. Don't commit adultery. Don't steal. (Ex. 20:13-15)
 - be holy in all you do (1 Péter 1:15)
1. The command is not completely trans-cultural
 - a. The command included the principle and a _____ specific behavior
 - b. The principle is always directly applicable, but the behavior is perhaps not always directly applicable

-
- Do not give any of your children to be sacrificed to Molech (Leviticus 18:21)

3. The command is _____ culturally specific

a. The principle and the command had a _____ and specific application in that culture and / or time period

b. _____ the principle or the command are applicable, either directly or indirectly in the present

- (Genesis 2:17)

- (2 Tim 4:13)

4. The command and principle are conveyed figuratively

a. We must first determine whether the _____ is literal or figurative

b. If _____, then we must determine the specific principle behind the figurative language

c. After this, we must determine which of the preceding three alternatives is correct in this situation

- (Eph. 4:26)

- (Matthew 5:29)

➤ (1 Peter 2:2)

5. Sometimes it isn't completely clear

➤ Women's head covering (1Cor 11:3-10)

➤ Foot-washing (John 13:1-17)

a. Carefully determine the _____ behind the command

b. Determine whether the author was _____ concerned with the principle or with the specific behavior as well

c. Consider how you might obey the command and apply the principle through some kind of _____.

d. When in doubt, follow the command explicitly (according to your conscience).

6. "Applying the Application" - when the application requires a decision

a. First and foremost to our lives.

b. Only then to the lives of those to whom we minister

CORRELATION

I. The task and purpose of correlation

A. The task

B. The purpose

II. The time of correlation

III. The means of correlation

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