

III. The Issue of Obedience – Never impose your will or opinion on God’s Word and obey what He says!

Principle #5 Obey the TRUTH God has shown you in His Word. - 47

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” John 7:17 Disobedience ruins our eyesight.

Principle #6 Obey God’s WISDOM. Submit your wisdom to God’s wisdom. - 48

Home and coffee shop group Bible studies are always warmly welcomed and appreciated. However, it is a dangerous thing when folks come together to share their ignorance, or worse their opinions on scripture, rather than benefiting from the godly pastors and teachers God has raised up. We all do well to remember the words of one seminary professor who repeatedly instructed “Don’t tell me what you think it says, tell me what it says!”

Always pray for God’s wisdom, read the surrounding verses, check out the larger context of a passage, and use your concordance and cross references! You’ll come out just fine!

Principle #7 Let the Bible explain your experience; never let your experience explain the Bible! -52

Here are some commonly heard statements: “You can never take my spiritual encounter away from me!” “I know I am a Christian because I speak in tongues,” or “I know I am right because I have experienced a miracle!” In reality, most, if not all false religions claim these things. Satan is an angel of light (when required) 2 Corinthians 11:14.

Principle #8 A Bible Passage has only ONE Interpretation. -69

Interpret once. Apply in many contexts!



Stash it or Trash it!

A disposable mini-guide to keep us on task for today’s study.
TriCity ABF 06/20/2021 - Steel

WHAT REALLY DIVIDES CHURCHES (Principles of Bible Study)

Intro: This is just a refresher. Please see the instructor for additional helpful resources! Satan uses three main arenas (traceable to Satan’s manifesto in the garden of Eden) to confuse men about God’s truth.

Our Session Goal:

We can reduce the entire discussion regarding religion in general, churches, and Bible interpretation into three simple issues. We can respond to each of these issues with one simple answer. Obviously, because we are dealing with issues, we’ll mention a few groups along the way, to better equip us when we converse with each other.

Our Session Outline:

I. The Issue of Authority, II. The Issue of Interpretation, and III. The Issue of Obedience. Each of these categories will include simple principles which we will number as we go along.

Main points are in blue.

Interpretive principles are in green.

In case you get lost, page numbers for slides are in red.

I. The Issue of Authority. – The solution. Let the Bible be our only source of spiritual truth and authority.

Principle #1 Always accept the Bible as your ONLY authority -5

Common false claims to church authority: Those who claim their church alone is approved by God, and those who claim their leaders have additional truth from God. Ironically, these are the very groups that make the

biggest issue about churches being divided!

Arguments folks use when claiming their church is the only church include “My church is the PURE church...is the historic church...was specially chosen by God...has the only true gospel!”

Unlike true Bible believers, these groups claim: 1.) Multiple authorities – in addition to the Bible, 2.) The right of Succession, or 3) both. All of them are cultic to greater or lesser extents.

- **Roman Catholics** are M & S
- **Churches of Christ** are S
- **LDS** are M & S, and
- **Some Baptists** are .
- **Seventh Day Adventists** are M

Our simple solution: Always accept the Bible as your ONLY authority.

II. The Issue of Interpretation – Be a literal interpreter and never kowtow to allegorical interpreters.

Principle #2 Always interpret the Bible literally. - 30

LITERAL Interpreters Teach:

- **“When the plain sense of the Bible makes common sense to seek any other sense is nonsense.”** Alva J. McClain

This quotation is not perfect because common sense is exactly that, but it still gets the point across! God doesn't play cryptic games with us!

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Foundations
1 Cor. 3:10

About those pesky allegorical interpreters:

Allegorical or selective interpreters have been around since post captivity. Allegorism began to be embraced by Christians thanks to Origin and Augustine. **Allegorical interpreters claim that spiritual meanings of a text supersede literal meanings.** The problem then arises, *who* determines the true spiritual meaning.

As Augustine saw this difficulty coming, he taught that the *church* should be the final authority when it comes to determining “the rule of faith.” Since Augustine, many allegorical interpreters have mixed the literal statements of God’s Word with their fanciful interpretations, dividing the body and creating party loyalty.

The plain fact: *Every significant theological difference found between churches today can be traced to the practice of mixing allegorical and literal interpretation in various amounts.*

- **An example of a bad mix:** The doctrine of hell.

- **Other Typical Examples of a bad mix:** Grace plus works, baptismal regeneration, Christ is present in the Eucharist, etc.

Principle #3 Behind every Bible figure or symbol there is a literal reality. - 44

Principle #4 Symbols and metaphors are used to illuminate existing Bible realities. -45

Our simple solution: Take God’s Word literally.

Continued on the back side...