



## **Ten Rules for Bible Interpretation**

- 1. The Bible must be interpreted with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. The larger context of the passage should always be allowed to influence and limit the interpretation of the passage.**
- 3. The definition of words is best determined by how those words are used in other parts of Scripture.**
- 4. Bible interpretation should involve some elbow grease.**

## 5. Interpretation must come before \_\_\_\_\_.

- We must not start with the question, “What does this passage mean to \_\_\_\_\_?”
- First, we must determine what the passage means, period.
- Only \_\_\_\_\_ properly interpreting the passage can we ask how it should impact our lives.

### Sandbox

— **Matthew 7:1** | *Do not judge, so that you won't be judged. (CSB)*

If application comes before interpretation we wrongly conclude...

- It is wrong to call someone out for their sins or to treat someone differently because of their sins.

If interpretation comes before application we rightly conclude...

- Interpretation: Judgment should be done with careful humility according to the standards of Scripture.

— **Matthew 7:3–5** | *Why do you look at the splinter in your brother's eye but don't notice the beam of wood in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the splinter out of your eye,' and look, there's a beam of wood in your own eye? Hypocrite! First take the beam of wood out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's eye. (CSB)*

— **Matthew 7:16** | *You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles?* (CSB)

— **John 7:24** | *Stop judging according to outward appearances; rather judge according to righteous judgment.*" (CSB)

— **Galatians 6:1** | *Brothers and sisters, if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual, restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so that you also won't be tempted.* (CSB)

— **1 Timothy 5:20** | *Publicly rebuke those who sin, so that the rest will be afraid.* (CSB)

— **2 Timothy 4:2** | *Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; rebuke, correct, and encourage with great patience and teaching.* (CSB)

- Application: Out of love, I should humbly correct those who violate the clear standards of Scripture.

6. The verse cannot \_\_\_\_\_ what it did not \_\_\_\_\_.

- Interpret Scripture with exegesis, not eisegesis.
  - Exegesis: Looking \_\_\_\_\_ for the meaning.
  - Eisegesis: Reading \_\_\_\_\_ text your own meaning.

**Sandbox**

— **Matthew 5:38–42** | *“You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you, don’t resist an evildoer. On the contrary, if anyone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. As for the one who wants to sue you and take away your shirt, let him have your coat as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to the one who asks you, and don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. (CSB)*

- Possible wrong interpretations from eisegesis...
  - Capital punishment is wrong.
  - War is wrong.
  - Protecting yourself from violence is wrong.
  - You should stay with an abusive husband.

- Interpretations from exegesis...
  - As individuals, we shouldn't resist an evildoer who...
    - Attacks your dignity (v. 39)
    - Sues you to take your personal assets (v. 40)
    - Infringes on your liberty (v. 41)
    - Violates your property rights (v. 42)

- Additional verses...

— **Romans 13:3-4** | *For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have its approval. For it is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason. For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.* (CSB)

— **Luke 22:36** | *Then he said to them, "But now, whoever has a money-bag should take it, and also a traveling bag. And whoever doesn't have a sword should sell his robe and buy one."* (CSB)

7. Allow the \_\_\_\_\_ of Scripture to explain and expand on \_\_\_\_\_ passages.

- The Bible is a consistent and integrated systematic expression of truth.
- The Bible will never \_\_\_\_\_ itself.
- Every doctrine of Scripture has multiple confirmations in the Bible.
- The best commentary on the Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- This principle highlights the importance of being a \_\_\_\_\_ of the whole Bible.

## Sandbox

— **1 Corinthians 9:26–27** | *So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air. Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.* (CSB)

- Does this mean that Paul feared losing his salvation if he did not work hard to keep his life under control?

— **2 Timothy 1:12** | *and that is why I suffer these things. But I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day.* (CSB)

— **2 Timothy 4:18** | *The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.* (CSB)

— **John 10:28** | *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.* (CSB)

— **1 John 2:19** | *They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. However, they went out so that it might be made clear that none of them belongs to us.* (CSB)