



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 application.**
- 6. The verse cannot mean what it did not mean.**
- 7. Allow the whole counsel of Scripture to explain and expand on individual passages.**
- 8. Interpretation must be sensitive to the genre of literature being studied.**
- 9. Think for _____ but not by _____ when studying Scripture.**

- Scripture is meant to be understood by Christian readers.

— **Psalm 119:130** | *The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.* (ESV)

— **Psalm 119:105** | *Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.* (CSB)

- The _____ will guide us as we read God's word.

— **1 Corinthians 2:14** | *But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.* (CSB)

— **Psalm 119:18** | *Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction.* (CSB)

— **John 16:13** | *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.* (CSB)

- But, our hearts are _____ and our minds are easily _____.

— **2 Peter 3:16** | *He speaks about these things in all his letters. There are some matters that are hard to understand. The untaught and unstable will twist them to their own destruction, as they also do with the rest of the Scriptures.* (CSB)

— **Jeremiah 17:9** | *The heart is more deceitful than anything else, and incurable—who can understand it?* (CSB)

— **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** | *But I fear that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if a person comes and preaches another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you had not received, or a different gospel, which you had not accepted, you put up with it splendidly!* (CSB)

— **Colossians 2:8** | *Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ.* (CSB)

- So, we should interpret Scripture with...

- A great deal of _____.

— **Acts 17:11** | *The people here were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, since they received the word with eagerness and examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.* (CSB)

- A _____ mind.

— **Matthew 22:29** | *Jesus answered them, "You are mistaken, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God.* (CSB)

— **2 Timothy 2:15** | *Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn't need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.* (CSB)

— Charles Hodge: In accordance with the priesthood of the believer, every Christian has the right and is bound to read and interpret it for himself, so that his "faith may rest on the testimony of the Scriptures, and not on that of the Church."

○ A _____ on those God has clearly called to _____.

— **Ephesians 4:11-12** | *He himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, equipping the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, (CSB)*

— **Acts 8:30-31** | *When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?" "How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (CSB)*

— **Luke 24:27** | *Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures. (CSB)*

— Michael Horton: "The best way to guard a true interpretation of Scripture, the Reformers insisted, was neither to naively embrace the infallibility of tradition, or the infallibility of the individual, but to recognize the communal interpretation of Scripture. The best way to ensure faithfulness to the text is to read it together, not only with the churches of our own time and place, but with the wider 'communion of saints' down through the age."

— J.I. Packer: "Tradition is the fruit of the Spirit's teaching activity from the ages as God's people have sought understanding of Scripture. It is not infallible, but neither is it negligible, and we impoverish ourselves if we disregard it."

— R. C. Sproul, "Although tradition does not rule our interpretation, it does guide it. If upon reading a particular passage you have come up with an interpretation that has escaped the notice of every other Christian for two-thousand years, or has been championed by universally recognized heretics, chances are pretty good that you had better abandon your interpretation."

— C. H. Spurgeon "It seems odd, that certain men who talk so much of what the Holy Spirit reveals to themselves, should think so little of what he has revealed to others."

Does the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) translation embrace gender-inclusive language?

- A controversy has been sparked by an article by Jonathan Merritt in the most recent edition of The Atlantic Magazine.
- The title of the article is, “Southern Baptists Embrace Gender-Inclusive Language in the Bible.”
- So, does the CSB embrace gender-inclusive language?
 - In one sense... Of course it does.
 - And so do you!
 - You use gender-inclusive language every time you say...
 - “Look at all the kids in Vacation Bible School.”
 - “Are y’all coming to supper tonight?”
 - “There were a lot of people at the grocery store tonight.”
 - But, in the sense of the accusation by Jonathan Merritt in his article...
NO! NOT AT ALL!
- Let’s discuss this issue in three parts...
 - Jonathan Merritt

- The article
 - The article uses spurious logic.

- The article...
 - The title...
 - Implies with “gender-inclusive” language that something sinister is afoot.

 - The argument...
 - *Anthropos* is often translated “human” or “people.” (151/547)
 - *Adelphoi* is often translated in a “gender-neutral” form. (106/341)

 - Therefore...
 - *“Such changes in Southern Baptists’ Bible translation of choice are more than a mere denominational matter. The SBC is America’s largest Protestant denomination and one of its most conservative. If its leaders and members are tolerating a softer, more inclusive approach to gender, it might be a bellwether of things to come in the culture war over gender.” (Merritt)*

- The Christian Standard Bible

- The CSB uses a gender-accurate not a gender-inclusive approach to translation.

- Example of a gender-inclusive approach...

- Here is 1 Timothy 3:2 in several gender-accurate translations...

— **1 Timothy 3:2a** | *An overseer, therefore, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife...* (CSB)

— **1 Timothy 3:2a** | *Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife...* (ESV)

— **1 Timothy 3:2a** | *An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife...* (NASB95)

— **1 Timothy 3:2a** | *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife...* (KJV)

- The NRSV REMOVED the gender from 1 Timothy 3:2.

— **1 Timothy 3:2a** | *Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once...* (NRSV)

- Another example of a gender-inclusive approach...

- Here is Proverbs 15:5 in several gender-accurate translations...

— **Proverbs 15:5** | *A fool despises his father's discipline, but a person who accepts correction is sensible.* (CSB)

— **Proverbs 15:5** | *A fool despises his father's instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.* (ESV)

— **Proverbs 15:5** | *A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.* (NASB95)

- The NIV (2011) REMOVED the gender from Proverbs 15:5.

— **Proverbs 15:5** | *A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.* (NIV11)

- Example of a gender-accurate update...

- Here is Acts 4:17 in an older (KJV) translation that translated most personal references as male...

— **Acts 4:17** | *But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.* (KJV 1900)

- Here is Acts 4:17 in the CSB with a gender-accurate approach...

— **Acts 4:17** | *But so that this does not spread any further among the people, let's threaten them against speaking to anyone in this name again."* (CSB)

- Other examples of the gender-accurate approach...

— **Revelation 3:20** | *See! I stand at the door and knock. If _____ hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.* (CSB)

— **Philippians 1:12–14** | *Now I want you to know, _____, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ. Most of the _____ have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word fearlessly.* (CSB)

— **Luke 9:23** | *Then he said to them all, “If _____ wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.* (CSB)

— **Matthew 16:26** | *For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life?* (CSB)

— **Ezekiel 29:9–11** | *The land of Egypt will be a desolate ruin. Then they will know that I am the LORD. Because you said, “The Nile is my own; I made it,” therefore, I am against you and your Nile. I will turn the land of Egypt into ruins, a desolate waste from Migdol to Syene, as far as the border of Cush. No _____ foot will pass through it, and no animal foot will pass through it. It will be uninhabited for forty years.* (CSB)

- The CSB preserves all specific references to gender from the original language.
- The CSB preserves the distinction between the roles of husbands and wives.
- The CSB preserves the Fatherhood of God.

- The CSB preserves the “Son of Man” title for Jesus.

- The CSB preserves the brotherhood of the saints.

For more information visit...

- Denny Burke, “Have Southern Baptist embraced gender-inclusive Bible Translation? Not by a longshot.”
 - <http://www.dennyburk.com/have-southern-baptists-embraced-gender-inclusive-bible-translation-not-by-a-longshot/>