

PTH101 Methodology in Bible Study

Week Four Review Questions

From Jack Kuhatschek's book, what have you learned about applying Biblical commands or examples?

In the Old Testament there is over 600 commands. You can find them in the first 5 books of the Old Testament. These five books are commonly known as the Law. Traditionally these laws were divided into 3 categories known as: moral laws, civil laws, and ceremonial laws. For more modern times it makes more sense to divide them into 5 different categories: criminal law, civil law, family law, ceremonial law and charitable law. The Old Testament is a covenant between the Lord and Israel. Since Israel broke the covenant with the Lord, he declared that one day he would establish a new covenant. However, as Christians we are no longer under the old covenant. Even though we are no longer under the law of the old covenant doesn't mean that the Old Testament isn't applicable today. Since the Old Testament is still God's word there is a benefit for us today. So by using certain guidelines we can determine which Old Testament commands apply to us. By applying these guidelines as a question it will help determine if that Old Testament command is applicable today. First question "Is the command restated in the New Testament?" If the command is restated in the New Testament then it would apply to us today. Second question "Is the command revoked in the New Testament?" If Jesus revokes the Old Testament command in the New Testament then they do not apply to us. The third question covers the rest of the commands that the first two doesn't. "What is the principle behind the Old Testament command?" The principles behind the old laws should still be valid, even though the way we apply them may differ.

To apply the New Testament commands it's a matter of simply applying the 3 questions used for the Old Testament. However, we must first understand the original situation. Next determine whether our situation is identical or comparable to the original situation. If it is identical, then apply the command directly. If its not identical, then seek to discover the principle behind the command and apply it to comparable situations that we face today.

In order to know which Biblical examples you must follow, first determine the correct method. There is an explicit example, implicit example or one which is recorded without comment. So to determine if the Bible example is explicit look first for whether the author comments on the nature of the example. Look to see if the author or Jesus says the example is good or bad. Ask is there a specific reference that says the person did something right or wrong. The next way to help determine whether the Bible example should be followed is by implicit examples. So implicit examples does not clearly tell you if the example is good or bad. In order to know you must look carefully at the narrative with detail. Sometimes we have to even research the historical and cultural background

of the passage. Other times you may find the key may be in the literary context. Of course you may need to look for recurring theme in the passage or book. However the authors usually don't explicitly or implicitly tell us if it is a good or bad example. When this happens we need to rely on truths or principles taught elsewhere in scripture. The authors expect us to have at least some knowledge of the law in the Old Testament and Christian theology and ethics in the New Testament. So we can divide this Biblical examples into two categories. First we have "Biblically endorsed example", which is an example of principles found elsewhere in scripture. Secondly "Unendorsed example", a story may bring to mind principles we learned in Scripture and bring those principles to life in new and revealing ways.

Did you discover anything interesting in your word study presentation? What did you find? Yes, How a word that can be repeated in verses doesn't seem to matter but you can find its meaning all through the verses giving a bigger value to the main word.

According to Howard Hendricks, what is the best way to understand the context?

It is the fruit of your observation. The first principle repetition and meditation of the passage. Second principle read the verse before or after.