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Chapter two of the book, *How to Read the Bible in Changing Times* by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, discusses the topic of good biblical translations. In the previous chapter, the authors talk about the importance of biblical exegesis and the need to properly interpret the bible to understand God's and the human writer's purpose and intent behind scripture. One of the ways to properly interpret the bible was to look at different translations. In chapter two, Fees discusses the significance of translations and speaks in depth about how viewing different translations is essential to biblical exegesis and the break down of translations.

In the beginning of the chapter, the author talks about the conflict regarding using only one translation when reading the bible. He states, "*The trouble, then, with using only one translation, be it ever so good, is that you are thereby committed to the particular exegetical choices of that translation as the Word of God. The translation you are using will, of course, be correct most of the time; but at times it also may not be*" (36). When a person only reads one translation, they are heavily relying on the interpretation of the translator(s). The problem with this is that if the translator did not properly interpret the text, the reader will be getting a different interpretation than the one the original author intended. The author continues by comparing four different translations, (NKJV, NASB, NIV, and the NEB), of 1 Corinthians 7:36. When it came to the NKJV translation, the scripture was rather nebulous where as the others were more descriptive and have a greatest chance to be closer to what Paul's original intent was. When studying multiple translations, the reader has a better understanding of the text.

Fee and Stuart break down the process of creating a translation and the different aspects that must be considered. One important aspect they bring up is the transferring of the original language to the receptor language. In the previous chapter, they bring up the significance of historical context when it comes to biblical exegesis. In this chapter, they also discuss Historical distance which is, "*the differences that exist between the original language and the receptor language, both in matters of words, grammar, and idioms as well as in matters of culture and history*" (42). When it comes to languages, there are many grammatical differences that cannot fully translate to another language. This also included the historical and cultural context of the biblical text. When creating a translation this is essential to staying close to the author's original intent, but a problem arises when creating the translation through formal equivalence. The author states that the "*problem with a literal translation is that it often makes the English ambiguous, where the Greek or Hebrew was quite clear to the original recipients. For example,*

in 2 Corinthians 5:16 the Greek phrase kata sarka can be translated literally “[to know] according to the flesh” (as in the NASB). But this is not an ordinary way of speaking in English. Furthermore, the phrase is ambiguous. Is it the person who is being known who is “according to the flesh,” which seems to be implied in the NASB, and which in this case would mean something like “by their outward appearance”?” The problem with focusing on formal equivalence is that it can change the original intent of the the author.

I agree with the author in that it is important to look at different translations and that it is important to focus on historical distance when creating a translation. One part that stood out to me was formal equivalence. As a bilingual speaker, there are phrases in Spanish that are impossible to translate into English. When attempted to translate such phrases, they do not make sense under the grammatical rules of English and the translation does not convey the meaning of such phrases. This helped me understand the reality of translation and the importance of historical distance. The reality is that it will be difficult to find a translation that can completely transfer the original language to the receptor language. Therefore, there is such an importance when it comes to including the historical and cultural aspect.