

Nina Ali

Chapter 14 – Obeying the Word: The Cultural Use of the Bible

5-3-1

1. How does Nida define culture?
2. What are 3 ways James Oliver Buswell III offered to break down contextualization?
3. What are the 3 horizons to help with a cross culture perspective?
4. What is 1 of the guidelines for handling the cultural historical aspects of the Scripture?
5. What is Robert C Sproul's advice on handling uncertainty in matters of interpretation?

Answer:

1. Culture is all learned behavior which is socially acquired, that is, the material and nonmaterial traits which are passed on from one generation to another."²
2. Contextualization of the witness, contextualization of the church and its leadership, and contextualization of the Word
3. First horizon: The culture of the Bible, Second horizon: The culture of the interpreter, Third horizon: The culture of the receptor
4. We may retain the theology of a passage (i.e., the principle) but replace the behavioral expression with some more recent but equally meaningful expression.
5. It is better to lean on the side of being humble and refusing to be cavalier with the text than it is to always assume that the more risky the stand, the more acceptable it is among those who prize creativity as being whatever is new and novel for its own sake.

Terms:

1. **Contextualization:** the translation of the unchanging content of the gospel of the kingdom into verbal forms meaningful to the peoples in their separate cultures and within their existential situations.
2. **Positive law:** Law based not on the nature of God but on his sayings on a special occasion
3. **Analogy of faith:** requires us to interpret all Scripture so that it is in agreement with the entire teaching of the Bible

Summary: The book focuses on the importance of being an interpreter and to recognize that your own culture can your perception of the meaning of the Bible. It discusses some of the misconceptions of cultural interpretation and where there have been downfalls. It then lays the foundation and guideline for how to handle cultural historical aspects of the Scripture. Some include retaining practices that are grounded in God or modifying the cultural forms but retain the content.