

Bible Interpretation in Six Easy Steps

It's easier and harder than it sounds

1. Pray

- a. 1 Corinthians 2:14
- b. John 14:26
- c. John 16:13

2. Read for Comprehension

- a. Read it. (1 Peter 3:15-16)
- b. Do you know all the words?
- c. Did you get lost in a run-on sentence?
- d. Did it make sense at a basic reading level?
- e. Did you follow the author's argument?
- f. Did you read it in context?

3. What Did It Look Like Then?

- a. Where does this fit in redemptive history?
- b. How would the original audience have understood this? (Matthew 7:9, 19:24)
- c. How would the original audience have applied this? (Leviticus 11:7-8)

4. What's the Point?

- a. This is about summarizing the principle in a way that is not limited to a specific situation or culture.
- b. Luke 18:1-8
- c. Luke 16:19-31
- d. This is a "bridge between two worlds." (Stott)
- e. If we fail to do this, we will impose cultural standards as though they were God's standards.
- f. Deuteronomy 22:5

5. What Does It Look Like Now?

- a. This is about applying the principle in our context.
- b. This doesn't mean a free-for-all because the principle has already been established.
- c. There can be multiple application of a single principle.
- d. There can be culturally appropriate and inappropriate applications of a principle.

6. Do it!

- a. James 1:22
- b. John 14:15
- c. 1 John 1:6