

Extra-Scriptural Tools October 16, 2019

Recap:

Philippians 2:5 – “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”

Redemptive Movement Hermeneutic – God is leading us somewhere. Each time, God revealed a limited amount of himself based on what we could handle culturally at the time.

How do we determine if Scripture is providing an ultimate ethic, or a culturally-specific ethic as part of a redemptive movement?

Application Recap: On Premarital Sex:

- Cultural perspective – women no, men yes – Deuteronomy 22:20-21
- Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- Preliminary movement - Exodus 22:16-17
- Breakout and Purpose/Intent and NT > OT and Competing Options – Matthew 19:1-12
- Seed ideas – “sexual immorality”
- Specific instructions vs general principles, purpose/intent – Ephesians 5:3
- NT > OT, Seed idea, Specific vs general - Matthew 5:27-30
- Closely Related - 1 Cor 7:1-5
- Direct Instruction/Breakout - 1 Cor 7:8-9
- Opposition to the original culture, closely related ideas – 1 Cor 6:12-20
- Closely Related Ideas, Preliminary movement - Hebrews 3:4

This Week: What tools can we use outside of Scripture?

In learning to think like Jesus thinks, the first and most important tool is the Word of God. But are there additional ways that we can learn to think like Jesus on these difficult topics?

Two Big Ideas:

1. The Voice of the Spirit through the Church

The Holy Spirit still speaks!

- Always in conformity but not constricted to the Word
- Redemptive movement in the church vs ultimate ethic in the church (Trinity vs Abolition of Slavery)
- Use some similar criteria, i.e. competing options, etc.

For Example, back to the question of war ... see Augustine’s Just War Theory. Just War Theory includes causes for war (Just Cause, Proportionate Cause, Right Intention, Right Authority, Probability of Success, Last Resort) and how to wage

war (Discrimination, Proportionality).

Excursus - What about a nuclear war with North Korea?

- See Joe Carter, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the SBC (<https://erlc.com/resource-library/articles/a-brief-introduction-to-the-just-war-tradition-just-war-and-terrorism>)

2. All Truth is God's Truth

Since all truth is God's truth, secular science and social science and other disciplines can reveal truth that helps us think like Jesus.

- Truth always matches Truth – Science and the Word of God should agree, or we should consider that we are misunderstanding one or the other
- Science can sometimes be an effective assistant in determining cultural values vs transcultural values in Scripture. (Geocentric worldview or flat earth)
- Science isn't always right, and can sometimes be used in opposition to Scripture. (Eugenics)

For Example: 1 Timothy 2:14 and who is “deceived”

Ladder of Abstraction concept

Conversation: Discussion Questions

1. What teachings of the church are critical for you as you think about how to read Scripture, or how to interpret our world today?
2. Where has the church misread Scripture, in your opinion? How do we distinguish the voice of the Spirit today from our cultural norms?
3. Can you think of topics where science or social science have “corrected” the church's reading of Scripture? Can you think of topics where science or social science got it wrong, and the Scriptures got it right?
4. Think about a concept or passage in Scripture where the “ladder of abstraction” concept is helpful. Now, think about a concept or passage of Scripture where the “ladder of abstraction” concept is problematic.
5. Try applying these criteria to your topic of interest this week!