

THE BIBLE IS TRUE... AND IT RULES US

HEBREWS 6:17-18

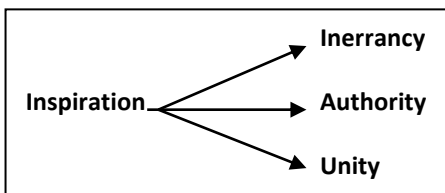
DISCUSS: HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?

“We Christians must face it: the Bible is hugely misogynistic... It is perhaps unsurprising, then, that so many people with modern liberal values are rejecting the church, unable to square their own sense of what’s right & wrong on issues like gender & sexuality with teachings taken from a book written over a thousand years ago. The irony is that the church is increasingly being seen, no longer as a repository for ethical guidance, but as a force for immorality...”

INTRODUCTION

Are there any mistakes in the Bible?

What difference does it make if God DOES speak to us in the Bible?



WHATEVER SCRIPTURE SAYS — PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD — IS TRUE

1. DEFINITION: “VERBAL INERRANCY”

2. FAITH RESTS ON A GOD WHO IS TRUTHFUL

Hebrews 6:17-18, “... in which it is impossible for God to lie...”

3. FAITH RESTS ON THE TRUTHFUL WORDS OF GOD

- **God's word is completely honest**
- **Through the Word God accomplishes exactly what He intends**

Titus 1:1-3, "... in hope of eternal life... which God, who never lies, promised..."

Isaiah 40:1-5, "... for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

4. SOME OBJECTIONS

- **The Bible IS accused of error: in doctrine, ethics, facts**
- **WRONG responses to the charge of error:**

"The Bible is authored by humans, so of course it must have mistakes."

"Inerrancy doesn't matter. It's the ideas in the Bible that count. It doesn't matter if there are a few mistakes."

"The Bible is infallible, not inerrant – and that's all it claims to be."

"Human words can never tell us truth about God."

- **So: when there's a disagreement, Christians assume that God's Word is right... and we are wrong**

THROUGH THE BIBLE GOD EXERCISES HIS RIGHT TO RULE

1. THE BIBLE HAS SUPREME AUTHORITY – BECAUSE IT IS AUTHORED BY GOD

- “supreme authority”: definition and disagreement – Mark 7:1-5

- Competing authorities: BRIE

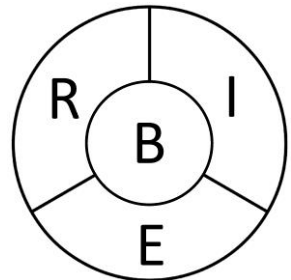
Bible

reason

institution

experience

- So: let the Bible rule us – Mark 7:6-13



Think: When did you last critique and amend your thinking, your practice or your experience having studied God's Word?

2. GOD CHOOSES TO RULE HIS PEOPLE THROUGH THE BIBLE

- **Relating to God through his Word**

Garden of Eden & the Fall (Genesis 1 -3)

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-4)

The New Testament (E.g. Mark 8:38, John 12:47-48, 14:15, 14:23-24, Romans 10:13-18, 1 John 2:3)

- **Objection: bibliolatry?**

^{ESV} Psalm 119:48, "I lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love"

- **Objection: led by the Spirit, not the Word?**

The Bible is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17)

Word and Spirit in creation (Genesis 1:1-3, Psalm 104:30)

Word and Spirit in Jesus' life and ministry (John 6:63)

John 6:63, It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

The Spirit empowers people to proclaim God's words (John 3:34, Isaiah 61:1, 2 Peter 1:21, Numbers 11:25, Acts 4:31)

The Spirit's current work: not "inspiration" but "illumination"