

## **THE INERRANCY AND AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE**

### **HEBREWS 6:17-18**

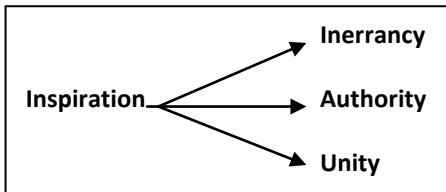
#### **DISCUSS: HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND?**

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 and wrong on issues like gender and 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 in society.<sup>1</sup>

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*Are there any mistakes in the Bible?*

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



### **THE BIBLE IS INERRANT:**

**WHATEVER SCRIPTURE SAYS – PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD – IS TRUE**

#### **1. DEFINITION: “VERBAL INERRANCY”**

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<sup>1</sup> Jemima Thackray, “We Christians must face it: the Bible is hugely misogynistic,” *Daily Telegraph*, 13 Feb 2014

## 2. FAITH RESTS ON A GOD WHO IS TRUTHFUL

<sup>ESV</sup> Hebrews 6:17-18, So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,<sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

## 3. FAITH RESTS ON THE TRUTHFUL WORDS OF GOD

- **God's word is completely honest**
- **Through the Word God accomplishes exactly what he says he will do**

Titus 1:1-3

Isaiah 40:1-5

## 4. SOME OBJECTIONS

*Doctrinal error:* e.g. the Bible's wrong when it says God knows the future

*Ethical error:* e.g., the Bible's teaching on human sexual relationships is wrong

*Factual error:* e.g. the way the Bible describes creation is wrong

- ***"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."***

## 5. IMPLICATION: WHEN THERE'S A DISAGREEMENT ASSUME THAT GOD'S WORD IS RIGHT AND WE ARE WRONG

*what about "contradictions"?*

*what about other "problems"?*

*isn't it all a matter of "interpretation"?*

# THE BIBLE IS AUTHORITATIVE: GOD EXERCISES HIS RIGHT TO RULE THROUGH IT

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

- “supreme authority”: definition and disagreement

Mark 7:1-5

- **Competing authorities:**

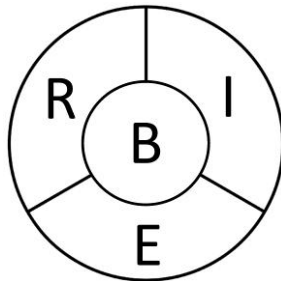
**Bible**

**reason**

**institution**

**experience**

- **Implication: 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?**

<sup>ESV</sup> 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)

*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"*

## 3. IMPLICATION: ARE WE EXCITED ABOUT THE BIBLE?