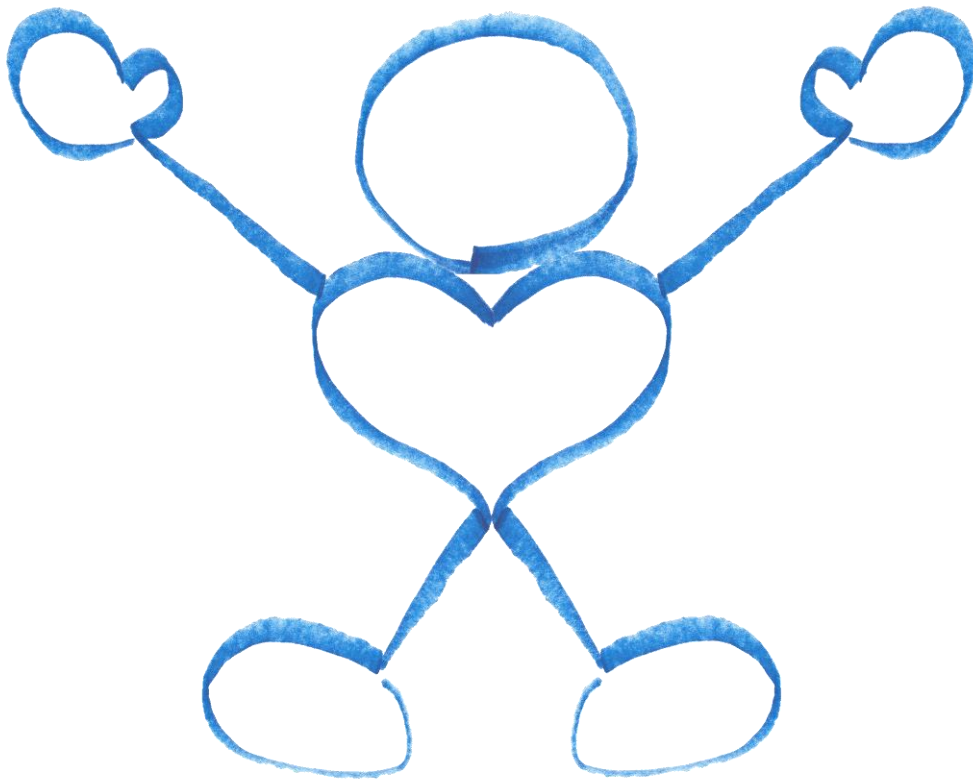


# Disciple Training

## [ Practical Hermeneutics ]

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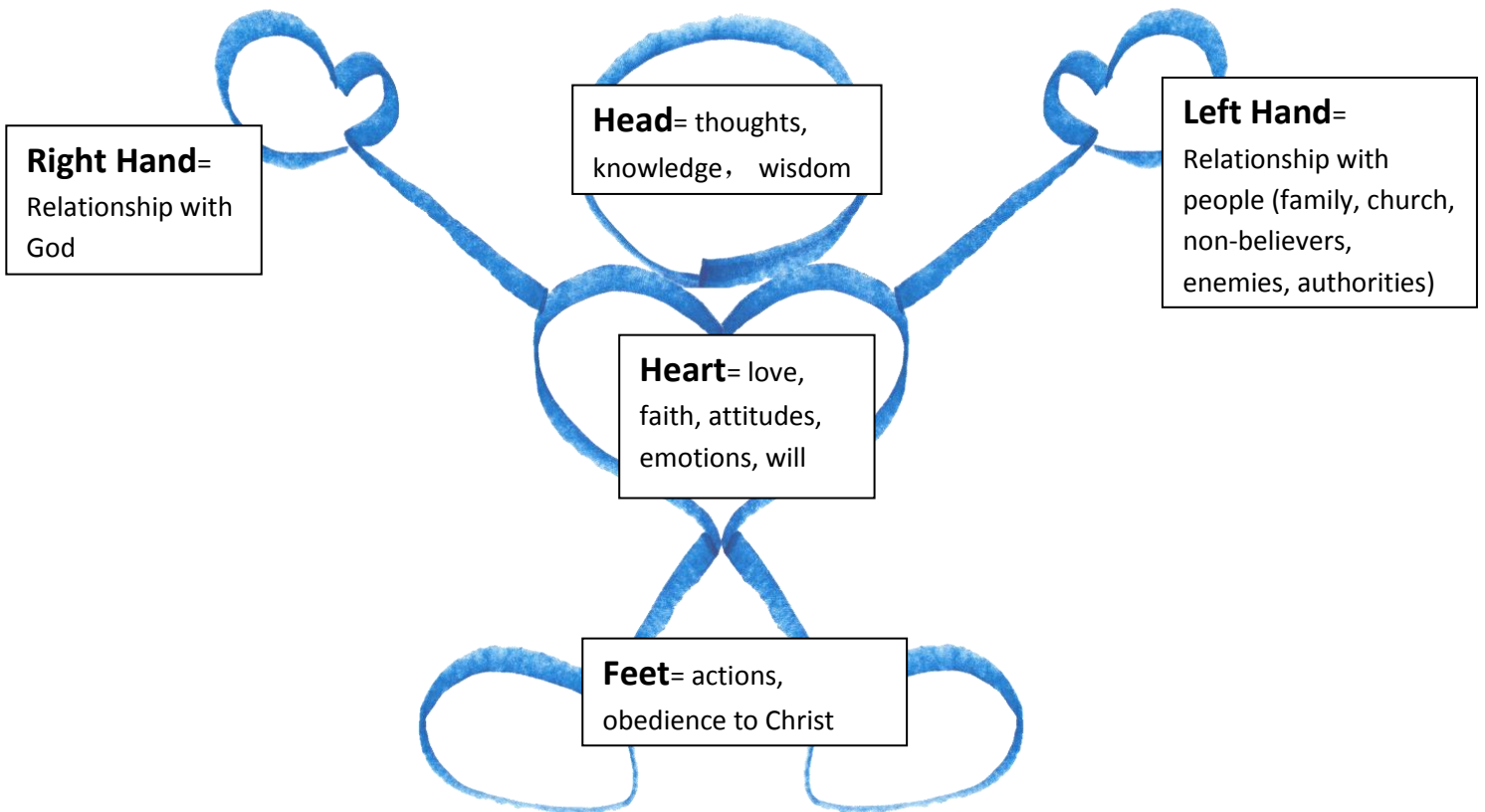


# Practical Hermeneutics

## 1. Remember.

1. Mark 12:29-31 – Greatest Commandment = Love God & love others.
2. Matthew 28:18-20 – Great Commission = Make disciples of all nations, baptize them, and teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded us, and understand that holder of all power and authority will be with us to the very end of the age.

## 2. What is a disciple and what does one look like? What is the difference between a “believer” and a “disciple”?



## 3. Problem: How can we know what Jesus commands? How can we know truth?

1. First, realize that God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55:8-9)
2. Second, realize that we MUST worship God in spirit AND in truth. (John 4:23)

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3. Next, understand that Jesus is truth. (John 14:6)
4. Also understand that God's Word is truth. (John 17:17)
5. All of Scripture is God's Word. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- 4. What does the Bible say about itself?**
  1. God Breathed – 2 Timothy 3:16
  2. Living & Active – Hebrews 4:12
  3. Sword of the Spirit – Ephesians 6:17
  4. Truth – John 17:17
  5. Lamp for our feet – Psalm 119:105
- 5. Why understand Scripture?**
  1. To not sin – Psalm 119:11 & 1 Corinthians 10:11
  2. Avoid errors – Mark 12:24
  3. To make us holy – John 17:17
  4. Resist our spiritual enemies – Matthew 4:1-11
  5. Do God's work – 2 Timothy 3:17, Ephesians 2:10
  6. To have hope – Romans 15:4
  7. Guidance (Light for our path) – Psalm 119:105
  8. Ultimately to know God. Exodus 33:13, John 17:3
- 6. What to do with Scripture?**
  1. Handle it correctly – 2 Timothy 2:15
  2. Search it daily like the Bereans – Acts 17:11
  3. To know what to do, do it and be blessed – James 1:22-25
  4. Do not go beyond what is written – 1 Corinthians 4:6
- 7. Four main "guidelines" for how to read Scripture.**
  1. **"Let the Plain things be the main things"**
    - i. The majority of Scripture is written in simple straightforward terms and we should differentiate between the clear and the not-so-clear issues.

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- ii. “Plain things” are indisputable facts that all believers must agree on. These represent absolute truth. i.e. I Corinthians 15: 3-8, 17-19.
- iii. There are, however, some “disputable issues” and these are more relative in nature. i.e. Romans chapter 14, particularly 14:1.
- iv. The secret things belong to the Lord, but the things revealed belong to us. (Deut. 29:29)

## 2. Literary style: Keeping the theme

### i. Common Errors: Historical narratives and Allegorical writings.

- Historical Narratives: The majority of historical events recorded in Scripture only describe how certain events happened and do not say whether or not they are good or bad or motives behind them. To better understand these portions of Scripture we should look to other portions of Scripture to better draw conclusions from them.
  - *For example:* To find the reason why Moses killed the Egyptian in Exodus 2:11-14, we must look to Acts 7:23-29, particularly v. 25.
- Allegories: These include the parables told by Jesus. Most allegorical writings are highly symbolic. They typically do not include specific dates or names of actual people or places.
  - For example: Adam’s sin: There are some who say that say the first several chapters of Genesis are allegorical rather than historical fact. Thus, they say that since Adam did not really exist he did not really commit the first sin and as a result there is no such thing as literal “original sin” for the human race. This interpretation of scripture directly conflicts with other parts of it. Ref. Genesis 3:6, 11-12, 17-19, Luke 3:38 and Romans 5:12-14.

### 1. Common Errors: Descriptive versus Prescriptive commands and

**requirements.** Jesus said that we must obey everything that he commanded us and Scripture tells us that we should not go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6). These are the two basic types.

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- Descriptive commands: Some commands only tell us God's standard, but doesn't say how to attain it... for example: we are to carry each other's burdens, husbands are to love their wives, wives are to submit to their husbands, etc. (Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 5: 22, 25), but Scripture doesn't say how we are to achieve these requirements.
- Prescriptive requirements: some of these tell us very specifically what God's standard is and how to do it...for example: do not worship idols, do not commit murder, and do not commit adultery, etc. (Exodus 20: 4-5, 13, 14). In other parts of Scripture, God tells us, in more detail, the conditions of obedience. For idols we can look at Exodus 20:22-23 & Colossians 3:5. For murder, we can look at Matthew 5:21-22 and for adultery we can look at Matthew 5: 27-8.

### 3. Context : Finding the focus

- i. Typical questions that you can ask yourself to help understand the context are:
  1. "Who is the audience?"
  2. "What events or information was presented immediately before or after the verse(s) in question?"
  3. "What does the rest of Scripture say about this subject?"
- ii. i.e. The Temptation Matthew 4:6-7 & Psalms 91:11-12

### 4. "Scripture in Light of Scripture" (Exegesis)

- i. The whole of Scripture is God-Breathed, therefore a certain subject matter must be viewed in light of what the whole of Scripture says about it.
  1. i.e. Prayer – John 14: 13-14 & 1 John 5:14
- ii. The subjective in light of the objective. For example: we should interpret our feelings in light of the objective truth of Scripture, and not use our

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feelings to interpret Scripture. Many errors and extremes in Christianity find their origins here.

- iii. The unclear in light of the clear. Many cults who claim to base themselves on Scripture interpret scripture in just the opposite fashion.

8. Read: Psalm 119:1-11

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# Practical Hermeneutics

## Practical Application: Four main “guidelines” for how to read Scripture. Exercises

### “Let the Plain things be the main things”

- 1 Cor. 4:6. What are we to not go beyond?
- List the “plain things” & “disputable things” described in the following verses: I Corinthians 8, 15: 3–8, 17–19, Romans 14, & Deut. 6:1–9, 13–25

### Literary style: Keeping the theme

#### Common Errors: Historical narratives and Allegorical writings.

Have them read various stories and identify whether or not they are allegories or narratives. What are we to learn from them?

- Historical Narratives:
  - *For example:* To find the reason why Moses killed the Egyptian in Exodus 2:11–14, we must look to Acts 7:23–29, particularly v. 25.
  - Rich man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19–31
  - Abraham’s offering of Isaac: Gen. 22:9–18. If this was just an allegory, what does Gal. 3:16, 26–29 mean?
- Allegories:
  - For example: Adam’s sin: Ref. Genesis 3:6, 11–12, 17–19, Luke 3:38 and Romans 5:12–14.
  - Any Parable – persistent widow: Luke 18:1–8, mustard seed and yeast: Mt. 13:31–33. Also “yeast of the Pharisees: Mt. 16:5–12, Rich fool: Lk. 12:13–21 .
  - Heb: The Word is a sword Heb. 4:12–13

**Common Errors: Descriptive versus Prescriptive commands and requirements.** Jesus said that we must obey everything that he commanded us and Scripture tells us that we should not go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6). These are the two basic types.

- Descriptive commands: Some commands only tell us God’s standard, but doesn’t say how to attain it... for example: we are to carry each other’s burdens, husbands are to love their wives, wives are to submit to their husbands, etc. (Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 5: 22, 25), but Scripture doesn’t say how we are to achieve these requirements.

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- Prescriptive requirements: some of these tell us very specifically what God's standard is and how to do it...for example: do not worship idols, do not commit murder, and do not commit adultery, etc. (Exodus 20: 4-5, 13, 14). In other parts of Scripture, God tells us, in more detail, the conditions of obedience. For idols we can look at Exodus 20:22-23 & Colossians 3:5. For murder, we can look at Matthew 5:21-22 and for adultery we can look at Matthew 5: 27-8.
- Determine if the following commands are Prescriptive or Descriptive:
- Together look at: 1 Cor. 11:13-16 (long hair)
- Ex. 20:4-5, 13, 14
- Eph. 4:29-31, 5:1-2, 3-4, 21
- Gal. 5:13, 15, 26, 6:2
- Heb. 10:25

## Context : Finding the focus

- Typical questions that you can ask yourself to help understand the context are:
  1. "Who is the audience?" i.e. Lord's prayer in Matt and Luke. Mt. 6:9-13 & Lk. 11:2-4
  2. "What events or information was presented immediately before or after the verse(s) in question?"
  3. "What does the rest of Scripture say about this subject?"
    - iv. i.e. The Temptation Matthew 4:6-7 & Psalms 91:11-12
    - v. A better glimpse into Abraham's faith – Heb. 11:17-19, James 2:20-23, Gen. 22:9-18

## "Scripture in Light of Scripture" (Exegesis)

- The whole of Scripture is God-Breathed, therefore a certain subject matter must be viewed in light of what the whole of Scripture says about it.
  - Prayer – John 14: 13-14 & 1 John 5:14
  - Jesus walks on water: Look at differences between Mt. 14: 22-34, Mk. 6:45-53, Jn. 6:16-24



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- Balaam's error: Nu. 24:10-14, 2 Pet. 2:15-16, Jude 11,
- Sickness, faith and righteousness (i.e blind man born blind) Jn. 9:1-4, 35 & Deut. 28:1-6.
- Paul fills up in his flesh Col. 1:24, but we know that Jesus' sacrifice was perfect – Heb. 10:10. Paul knew that suffering was necessary: 2 Tim 3:11-12
- Love and Theology. Some read 1 John 2:9 and say that love is enough. We know that true love is from God 1 Jn. 4:7-8 and true love loves truth 1 Cor. 13:6, and God's Word is truth (Jn. 17:17) and Jesus is truth John 14:6.
- Salvation: Some read James 2:24 and say that we are saved by our works. Eph. 2:8-10 says something very different. In light of Eph. 2:8-10, what does James 2:24 tell us?
  - King Asa: 1 Ki. 15:11-23, 2 Chron. 16:1-13
- The subjective in light of the objective.
- The unclear in light of the clear. Many cults who claim to base themselves on Scripture interpret scripture in just the opposite fashion.

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