

15 Factors to Rightly Dividing Scripture: How to Study the Bible

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Feel free to print and put this in your notebook. The first 3 pages is the long and explanatory version for the 15 Factors. On page 4 is a simple list of these 15 Factors that you may want to print to carry in your bible as a reminder.

Note: All scripture used is from the King James Version as its the only version I trust. I just know enough about the history of God's preserving of the KJV and the corruption behind modern versions. You will find enough information about this in my [KJV Q&A Series](#) to enable you to do your own research.

1. Context Factor

Very important. No brainer, right? Well here is an example where many churches take something "out" of context. The issue of Speaking in Tongues. Long-story short (you can do your own study on it) all mention of "tongues" in the Bible is in reference to speaking *another* language that you as the speaker do not know. Such as I speak English but I don't speak French. Its not about speaking some jibberish that supposedly only one or two others can understand. The bible specifically says that "tongues" were for a sign to unbelieving Jews, for the Jews required a sign (I Corinthians 1:22). See also I Corinthians 14:2, 22. When the Jews at Pentecost heard the Apostles speak they said "how hear we every man in our **own** tongue, wherein we were **born**?" Acts 2:8. Remember the Bible wasn't finished being written at this time and the Jews had rejected and crucified their Messiah (Hebrews 1).

2. People Factor

Who is the passage written to? Did you realize the entire bible is written to only 3 groups of people and you fall into one of them? The 3 groups are the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church. If you are not a believer in Christ, that is, born-again, you are a Gentile. If you are a saved person, born-again, you are a part of the {true} Church of God, the body of Christ.

3. Time Factor

The bible has proper divisions, and you must understand these divisions in order to understand the bible. For example... even though the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are in the "New Testament" section of your bible - each book 's writings - just before Christ's death are actually happening under the "Old Testament" Law. The New Testament was not in-effect until the "Testator" died - Jesus Christ. Same thing with YOUR Last Will and Testament. It doesn't take effect until you are DEAD. ...*Jesus rose from the dead 3 days later ;)

4. Application Factor

All scripture has 3 basic applications and they are... Historical, Doctrinal and Devotional/Inspirational.

5. Individual Word Factor

God has chosen every event and every individual word in the Bible for a specific purpose. And he promised to preserve his words.

Psalms 12:6-7 "The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

Proverbs 30:5-6 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

****And check out John 21:25** "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written."

****Don't you think that makes what the Bible does say that much more important?**

6. Creation Factor

The invisible things of God are understood by the creation which He has made. I talked about this in [this post](#).

7. Comparison Factor

The Bible is of **no private interpretation**. We understand His Word by comparing Scripture with Scripture. The Bible defines itself.

I Corinthians 2:13 "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

8. Consistency Factor

The Bible must be understood in the light of **God's consistency**.

9. Literal Factor

Always take a passage literally until it is impossible to do so, or if we have the clear instruction of Scripture that we are dealing with symbolism.

10. Attitude Factor

Always be prepared to change whatever you have been taught or you have believed when it goes contrary to the Bible. Never make the Bible line up with what you believe. Always line yourself up with what the Bible clearly says.

11. Clarity Factor

Never violate a clear passage when trying to understand an obscure passage and don't "twist" a passage to make it fit. II Peter 3:16

12. Question Factor

Never base a doctrine on a question. Questions are designed to amplify or help explain something.

13. Confirmation Factor

Never base a doctrine on a single verse or passage.

I want to bring up an example here that comes to mind. I know the Catholics (my husband grew up in a Catholic home) practice the "Eucharist" where they actually believe the bread and wine turn into the actual flesh and blood of Christ (John 6:53-58) and thereby they are "receiving" Christ physically. But Jesus clearly says in that passage of John chapter 6 in verses 60-63 that the words he speaks are spiritual- not physical. Therefore the Catholic church is making a horrendous error in leading their followers to believe such things.

Remember you must search out the scriptures for yourself to verify what your pastors or spiritual leaders are teaching you. Be like the Bereans here in Acts 17:10-11 as they "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

14. Maturity Factor

When coming upon a passage that you do not understand, you must never violate the principles of Bible study. If you still can't understand it, either God does not choose to reveal it, or you're simply not ready for it yet. The Word is spiritually discerned.

John 16:12 "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

15. "Apparent Contradiction" Factor

Always give the Bible the benefit of the doubt. There are no contradictions in God's word, only "apparent" contradictions. God makes no mistakes.

Proverbs 30:5-6 "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

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14. Maturity Factor
15. “Apparent Contradiction” Factor