

the Venues

Go Deep

The Bible: Let's Ask Your Questions
September 25, 2016

Questions: What did your church think of questions?

- Church is a "No-Question Zone."
- Questions are a sign of a lack of faith.
- There is a logical answer to each question and we (your church leaders) have it.
- "You have questions? Me too!"

Here are some questions you have asked about the Bible:

1. What are some notable additions/deletions made in translations over the years?

A. The ending of the Gospel of Mark.

Check it out: Most manuscripts end with Mark 16:8. Mark 16:9-20 was added later.

Why would Mark end his story this way? Why would someone need to add a different ending?

B. One of my favorite stories was added: John 7:53-8:11. Yikes!

Since this story was added later, do you think it really happened? How does John 21:25 help us answer that question?

C. Some versions of Mark 1:40-41 read like this: "A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

Some versions of Mark 1:40-41 read like this: "A leper came to him begin him and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!"

What's the big difference between the two versions? Which version do you think is right? What difference does it make?

2. Which translation is the best?

Help! There are so many. Which one do you like?

3. What is "The Rapture?"

What is your understanding of "The Rapture"?

What do we learn from the fact that there are 7-10 views of the "Last Days," all claiming to be Bible-based?

4. Is our interpretation of the Bible, when used as a tool to demonstrate how we should interact with society, merely a reflection of our current social values, and does that mean that interpretation will continue to evolve as our values shift? How relevant is the Bible as a whole in current society?

Want to tackle that one? What's your answer?

What horrible things have been justified by the Bible?

What behaviors recorded in the Bible were reflections of the culture?

How did ethics change from Old Testament to New Testament? What do you think of ethics still evolving today?

5. Is cherry-picking the Bible a good thing?

Compare Isaiah 61:1-2 with Luke 4:18-19. What did Jesus leave out? Did Jesus cherry-pick?

What is the alternative to cherry-picking?

If we cherry-pick, what is our guide? How do we know what to pick and eat and what to leave?

What do you think of this approach of Frank Schaeffer?

*"If you take the Christian teaching seriously that Jesus is the son of God, then obviously his life is the lens through which you read the rest of scripture and pick and choose what you will do and not do because he said there are parts of the law that are bull****. [Jesus said] 'The law says [do this,] but I say don't do this.' So therefore, read the Bible expecting to edit it and get rid of the crap and stick with the stuff that fits with the life testimony, which ends with Jesus saying 'Forgive them for they know not what they do.'"*