

BIBLE CONTRADICTIONS

Tools to Make All Men See...

“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God...”

I. Things to consider when talking with others

- a. Most treat the Bible as if it's a snapshot of the mind of God and they're just looking at different parts of the same picture – but we know it's progressive (more like a movie)
- b. People are aware the Bible contains instructions from God
- c. Your task is to help them understand how to find God's instructions for them
- d. Precaution #1: Don't try to have bible study with a unsaved person; it's impossible → 1Cor 2:14
 - i. If you can't discern a clear understanding of the gospel, you have to switch gears
 - ii. Let them do the talking here – most people will agree with anything that sounds good
 - iii. Don't give them the benefit of the doubt regarding the destiny of their soul
- e. Precaution #2: Stay away from any issue that is emotionally charged (for them or for you)
 - i. When emotions enter the picture, the opportunity for learning is probably gone
 - ii. Start with something inoffensive or neutral to build credibility and trust (i.e., Gen 7:2-3)
 - iii. Teach the concept of progressive revelation and right division with destroying everything all at once; wait for them to come to you with questions about their core issues

II. Contradictions Defined

- a. **WARNING: Do not bother trying to teach others using contradictions if you are not a bible believer!** You'll only create more confusion. We must have a final authority and it's not YOU.
A bible believer...
 - i. Acknowledges the entire Bible as God's inspired, preserved Word that he expects us to use
 - ii. Allows the verses to say what they mean and mean what they say
 - iii. Doesn't make excuses for the words (i.e., doesn't need to “greek” it; whenever you leave scripture, your argument is weakened and so is your stance on a final authority → Rom 3:4)
- b. Contradiction = direct opposition to what has been said; inconsistency with itself; conflicting information
 - i. Joel 3:10 & Mal 4:3 are mutually exclusive: one can't do both at the same time
- c. A contradiction is NOT a mistake, error, mistranslation, or an opportunity to advance one's own agenda (which is how most people solve the contradictions)
- d. Yes, the Bible has contradictions, but it has no mistakes. Use a simple parallel → Traffic lights need to display contradictory information at the same time

III. A Cursory Overview of Easy ABC's

a. Non-offensive ABC's (usually)

- i. Which diet? → Gen 1:29/Gen 9:3/Deut 14:3/1Tim 4:4
- ii. Should we judge? → Mat 7:1-2/1Cor 2:15
- iii. Do we work for food or not? → Luke 12:29/2Thes 3:10
- iv. Should we have children or not? → Mat 24:19/1Tim 5:14
- v. Poor or not? → Acts 4:34-35/Rom 15:26/Gal 2:10
- vi. Is Jesus confused? → Luke 10:4-5/Luke 22:35-36

b. Gospel ABC's

- i. Saved by faith alone or works, too? → Rom 4:5/Jam 2:24
- ii. Conditional forgiveness or forgiven already? → Mat 6:14-15/Eph 4:32

c. Prophecy/Mystery ABC's

- i. Made known or kept secret? → Acts 3:21/Rom 16:25
- ii. To whom is salvation? → Mat 10:6/John 4:22/Rom 11:11/Titus 2:11

d. ABC's about the Law

- i. Are we under the law? → Mat 5:19/Rom 6:14
- ii. Is circumcision required? → Gen 17:9-10/Gal 5:2

e. Baptism ABC's

- i. How many baptisms? → Mat 3:11/Luke 12:50/Eph 4:5

f. Prayer ABC's

- i. Who gets prayers answered? → Mat 7:8/2Cor 12:8-9
- ii. Do we know how to pray? → Luke 11:1/Rom 8:26

g. ABC's about Future Events

- i. Is the coming of Lord a good or bad thing? → Joel 2:1-11/1Thes 4:16-18
- ii. Future or present atonement → Rom 5:11/Acts 3:19
- iii. Future or present grace → Rom 5:2/1Pet 1:13
- iv. Will we reign on earth or in heaven? → Luke 22:29-30/Eph 2:6

h. Over 100 more on the website: <http://graceambassadors.com/midacts/bible-contradictions>

i. BONUS: Studying bible contradictions will help YOU to grow in your knowledge of the truth, too!

- i. Write them down – in your bible (very helpful) or elsewhere
- ii. Try to find more as you study on your own
- j. **REMINDER:** The point is to build credibility, start the conversation, and introduce the concept of right-division – not to pick (or win) a fight