

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | MAY 17, 2023

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG

ACBC Certification

Phase 1: Learning

- Fundamentals Training Course (30 hours)
After conclusion of this course, a person has four years to complete Phases 1 and 2
- Counseling Observations (10 sessions)
- Outside Reading from approved book list (1000 pages, with a minimum of 300 of those pages from biblical counseling and theology books)

Phase 2: Exams and Evaluations

- Exams
Open book; at your own pace; essay questions; each answer must be 1-1.5 pages long
 - ✓ **Theology (24 questions)**
 - ✓ **Counseling (20 questions)**
- Evaluations
Biographical info, pastor/elder evaluation, colleague evaluation, church member in good standing, etc.

ACBC Certification

Phase 3: Supervision

- Conduct 50 counseling sessions supervised by an ACBC Fellow
- Must be completed in one year

More information at <https://biblicalcounseling.com/training/certification/>

Intentions for our Study

- **Become better students of God's Word**
Colossians 1:28-29
- **Equipping for greater ministry, specifically in biblical counseling (i.e., discipleship)**
2 Peter 1:3
- **Grow together in unity and maturity as a church family**
Ephesians 4:12-13

Question 1

Describe the **inspiration**, **inerrancy**, and **authority** of Scripture as well as the relationship of each one of these issues to one another.

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Inspiration

- 2 Timothy 3:16 – “All Scripture is **breathed out** by God ...”
Gr. *theopneustos* (teh-op'-nyoo-stos)
- 2 Peter 1:21 – “... but **men spoke from God** as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

God divinely influenced human authors of the Bible in such a way that what they wrote was the very Word of God

“God takes words of human beings and makes them His own ... a divine act creating an identity between a divine word and a human word.”

(John Frame, *Systematic Theology*, 594-595)

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Inspiration (theories)

- Dictation Theory
- Conceptual Inspiration
- Natural Inspiration
- Verbal, Plenary Inspiration

verbal – the **words** of Scripture (not only the *ideas* of the biblical writers) are God's Word

plenary – literally, *full*. **Everything** in Scripture (all words, not just some of it) is God's Word

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Inerrancy

Literally, "without error"

"When applied to Scripture, it [inerrancy] means that the Bible is **without error in the original copies** [i.e., original autographs, manuscripts]. It is therefore free, when properly interpreted, from affirming anything that is untrue or contrary to fact." (John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 109)

Inerrancy is based on God's character, His attributes. He cannot lie or speak falsely.

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God cannot lie or speak falsely:

- 2 Samuel 7:28 (David praying)
- Titus 1:2
- John 14:6 (Jesus speaking)
- John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13 (referring to the Holy Spirit)
- Hebrews 6:18
- Proverbs 30:5a

Since the written words of Scripture are the **words of the God of truth**, they must be **without error**. God's words are the ultimate standard of truth. John 17:17 - ... *Your word is truth.*

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Authority

Definition – “power or right to enforce obedience; moral or legal supremacy; right to command or give a final decision” (New Shorter Oxford Dictionary)

“To understand and accept God’s **authority** is as simple as accepting the fact of God Himself.” (John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, Biblical Doctrine, 101)

Original and ultimate **authority** resides with God and God alone

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Authority

God's control (might) and authority (right):

- **Control** means that God has the power (might) to direct the whole course of nature and history as He pleases – i.e., His sovereignty over all
- **Authority** means that He has the right to do that

While God's control and authority are not synonymous, they do imply each other. For us to question God's authority and debate with Him is as ridiculous as for clay to debate with the potter (Is. 45:9-11).

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Authority

“God’s right to demand unqualified obedience from His creatures.” (John Frame, *Systematic Theology*, 1126)

“No other authority may compete with God’s own words. No words may be added to God’s or put on the same level of authority ... It is wrong to bind the consciences of God’s people by mere human traditions. Only the word of God has ultimate authority.” (John Frame, *Systematic Theology*, 28)

“The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 73)

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Describe the **inspiration**, **inerrancy**, and **authority** of Scripture as well as the relationship of each one of these issues to one another.

Putting it all together – how would you answer this?

Next week ...

Describe the **sufficiency** of Scripture. Relate the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture to the **practice of biblical counseling**. Research and respond to the arguments of at least one integrationist or Christian Psychologist regarding the insufficiency of Scripture for counseling.

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