

How do we live out the Bible and how do we read the Bible?

When interpreting Scripture there are countless rules to follow.

Context is major. We must interpret a particular text based on the context of the verse. The context of the paragraph. The context of the chapter. The context of the book. The context of the Bible.

Our understanding must harmonize with the rest of scripture.

Acts 15:24-29 - Gentiles are instructed to abstain from food sacrificed to idols.

Was this request only for the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia? Was it only for a limited time or for all time?

If there are no restrictions placed upon Acts 15, what do we do with 1 Corinthians 8 where Paul gives permission to eat food sacrificed to idols?

Genesis through Revelation is a Story.

It is a story that is made up of a series of mini-stories.

The mini-stories are held together by the Story.

The only way to make sense of the mini-stories is to set each one in the context of the Story.

None of the mini-stories are final; none are comprehensive; none are absolute; none are exhaustive. Each tells a true story of the Story. They are all tied together.

Our understanding of one section cannot be foreign to another.

Outline of the Story:

Creating Eikons - Oneness

Cracked Eikons - Otherness

Covenant Community - Otherness expands. *(God's Kingdom Through Covenant for His Glory, Ultimately In Christ)*

Christ, the Perfect Eikon, redeems - One in Christ

Consummation - Perfectly One

Outline of the Story through the mini-story man and woman:

Then God said, “Let us make “The Adam” in Our “Image”... God created “The Adam” in His own “Image”, in the “image” of God He created them; male and female he created them.

Eikon is the Greek word for Image used in the Septuagint and in the N.T. for Jesus.

Genesis 2 tells us God chose to split “The Adam” into two, an Ish (man) and an Ishah (woman). She was called Ishah, for she was taken out of Ish.

The choice to make “The Adam” as an Eikon and to split The Adam into two, male and female, is extremely important for understanding the story of the Bible.

Several elements in the creation story demonstrate God's intentions for "The Adam" to be a living expression of the Trinity.

God creates Eve from Adam's rib.

Eve is called the ezer, (helper) that is suitable (a counterpart) for him.

After splitting them into two, God brings them together as "one flesh."

The loving oneness of God finds earthly expression in the loving oneness of Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3 is the fracturing of Oneness in relationship, especially husband/wife. The rest of the Story calls us back to Oneness.

N.T. Theme of Oneness

John 17:20-23

Romans 12:5

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Galatians 3:26-29

Ephesians 2:14-16

Ephesians 5:31-32

The Story's plot leads to a person. That same story is headed to community.

Everything God designed for Eikons is actually lived out by the Perfect Eikon.

Everything Eikons were to be and do comes by being "in Christ" or by becoming "One" with Christ.

The cracked images of God are directed to the Perfect image of God to be restored back to our original images.

All of this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...

Romans 8:29-30 God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun.

Why should we look at the creation story of Adam and Eve and the plot of reconciliation through the cross when examining text on gender roles in the N.T.? What do they have to do with each other?

Answer: Everything!!

1 Corinthians 14:34 ESV - the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says.

1 Timothy 2:12-14 ESV - I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. [13] For Adam was formed first, then Eve; [14] and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.