

“Sola Scriptura”

Introduction

Martin Luther: “Show me my error from the Bible and the *Bible alone*”

Psalms 119:105 “*Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*”

What is the purpose of Scripture?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that all God's people may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16

The Bible as a _____

All stories (including yours and mine) are part of one great story.
So the meaning of life depends on a broader context for its significance.

Act 1 - _____

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
Genesis 1:1

Act 2 – _____

“The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled.” - Gen. 6:5

Act 3 – _____

“Abraham, You'll be the father of many nations.” - Gen. 17:4

The idea is that God plans to use Israel to begin to reclaim all the people in creation that he loves from the damage of sin.

“All the peoples of the earth, Abraham, will be blessed by you.”
Gen. 12:3

God's Laws – different kinds in the Bible

- _____
- _____
- Moral – 10 commandments
Deuteronomy 6:5 *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”*
Leviticus 19:18 *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Deuteronomy 24:20: “When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time.”

That rule is actually about a heart for the poor. The law offered examples of an obedient heart. Like here, the reason to be a sloppy farmer was to “leave some olives for the poor.”

Now, if you had fig trees, the same principle applied...

If the Bible really is God's Word, why does it allow practices like slavery or polygamy?

The Old Testament was in a barbaric age. Infanticide was commonly practiced. Women were generally treated like possessions. Masters could kill slaves without any accountability at all. Religion was mostly superstition, and separated from ethics or justice. It sometime involved temple prostitution or human sacrifice.
So, God has to start where people actually were, and that's what He does.

However, compared to the ancient culture, the **Bible is constantly _____ the practice and power of slavery.**

The Bible limits how much power a master has over a slave. It said that a master can't inflict any punishment he wants to on a slave. Plus, slavery could not be perpetual. After seven years, a master was to allow the slave to go free.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Apostle Paul (Galatians 3:28)

When it comes to sexuality, the Bible was actually more _____
(sexual intimacy is to be reserved for the covenant of marriage) than ancient Mesopotamian culture was.

Jesus raises the bar further when He says:

“I'll tell you, if you are even just looking at women as objects for the indulging of your lust, it shows that your heart is way off base.” – Matthew 5:28

Act 4 – _____

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” - Luke 24:27

Act 5 – The _____

Year of Living Biblically: “Millions of people say they take the Bible literally. A 2004 Newsweek poll put it at 55 percent, but my suspicion was that almost everyone's literalism consisted of picking and choosing. People plucked out the parts that fit their agenda.”

Holy Spirit and the Bible

The Spirit can help me understand. On my own, with my own tendency to justify my sinfulness, I would tend to distort the Scriptures. But every follower of Jesus has received the Holy Spirit, and if you pray and read and study humbly, together with others in the community of faith, you can trust that God will help you understand.

Ellen White and the Bible

“My writings are a _____ light to lead to the greater light of the Bible.”

Conclusion

All stories (including yours and mine) are part of one great story.