

Chapter 5: The Inerrancy of Scripture

1. The Meaning of Inerrancy

- a. The inerrancy of Scripture means that Scripture in the original manuscripts does not _____ anything that is _____ to fact.
- b. Though error and at least partial falsehood may characterize the speech of every human being from time to time, it is the characteristic of God's speech even when spoken through sinful human beings that it is never _____ and that it never affirms _____.
- c. This definition does not mean that the Bible tells us every _____ there is to know about any one subject, but it affirms that what it does say about any subject is _____.

2. The Bible can be inerrant and still speak in the ordinary language of everyday speech.

- a. The Bible is _____ truthful in everything it says and uses ordinary language to describe natural phenomena or to give approximations or round numbers when those are _____ in the context.
- b. Biblical statements can be _____ and still totally true. Inerrancy has to do with _____, not with the degree of precision with which events are reported.

3. The Bible can be inerrant and still include loose or free quotations.

- a. Written Greek at the time of the New Testament had no quotation marks or equivalent kinds of punctuation, and an accurate citation of another person needed to include only a correct _____ of the content of what the person said.
- b. It was not expected to cite each word _____. Thus inerrancy is consistent with loose or free quotations of the Old Testament or of the words of Jesus, for example, so long as the content is not _____ to what was originally stated.
- c. The original writer did not ordinarily imply that he was using the _____ words of the speaker and only those, nor did the original hearers expect _____ quotation in such reporting.

4. It is consistent with inerrancy to have unusual or uncommon grammatical constructions in the Bible.

- a. The Bible nowhere claims to be "_____ " in things such as style, grammar, or spelling. What it claims is that its statements are _____.
- b. A statement can be ungrammatical or include misspellings but still be entirely _____.

5. Some current challenges to inerrancy.

- a. Objection: The Bible is only _____ for matters of "Faith and Practice"

— The whole purpose of Scripture is to say everything it does say, on whatever subject. Every one of God's words in Scripture was deemed by him to be important for us. Thus God issues severe warnings to anyone who would take away even one word from what he has said to us (Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18–19).

b. Objection: The term inerrancy is a _____ term.

— In no case has the term been used to denote a kind of absolute, modern scientific precision by any responsible representative of the inerrancy position. Therefore those who raise this objection to the term are not giving careful enough attention to the way in which it has been used in theological discussions for more than a century.

— Second, it must be noted that we often use non-biblical terms to _____ a biblical teaching.

— It should also be noted that no other single word has been proposed which says as clearly what we want to _____ when we wish to talk about total truthfulness in language.

— The word inerrancy does this quite well, and there seems no reason not to continue to use it for that purpose.

c. Objection: We have no inerrant manuscripts; therefore, talk about an inerrant Bible is _____.

— In reply to this objection, it may first be stated that for over 99 percent of the words of the Bible, we know what the original manuscript said. Even for many of the verses where there are textual variants (that is, different words in different ancient copies of the same verse), the correct decision is clear, and there are very few places where the textual variant is both difficult to evaluate and significant in determining the meaning.

— Our present manuscripts are for most purposes the same as the _____ manuscripts, and the doctrine of inerrancy therefore directly concerns our present manuscripts as well.

d. Objection: The Biblical writers " _____ " their messages in minor details to the false ideas current in their day and affirmed or taught those ideas in an incidental way.

— To this objection to inerrancy it can be replied, first, that God is _____ of human language and can use human language to _____ perfectly without having to affirm any false ideas that may have been held by people during the time of the writing of Scripture. This objection to inerrancy essentially denies God's effective lordship over human language.

— Second, we must respond that such "accommodation" by God to our misunderstandings would imply that God had acted _____ to his character as the God who "never lies" (Titus 1:2; cf. Num.

23:19; Heb. 6:18).

— If Scripture contained such kinds of “accommodations” that affirmed things that were false simply to communicate better, this would create a serious _____ problem for us.

e. Objection: Inerrancy overemphasizes the _____ aspect of Scripture and neglects the _____ aspect.

— Though the Bible is fully human in that it was written by human beings using their own language, the activity of God in _____ the writing of Scripture and causing it to be also His words means that it is different from much other human writing in precisely this aspect: it does not include _____.

f. Objection: There are some _____ errors in the Bible.

6. Problems with denying inerrancy.

a. If we deny inerrancy, a serious moral problem confronts us: May we _____ God and intentionally lie in small matters also?

b. If inerrancy is denied, we begin to _____ if we can really trust God in anything He says.

c. If we deny inerrancy, we essentially make our own human minds a higher _____ of _____ than Gods' Word itself.

d. If we deny inerrancy, then we must also say that the Bible is _____ not only in minor details but in some of its doctrines as well.