

Theology 1
The Inerrancy & Authority of Scripture
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*The inerrancy of Scripture has recently been a topic of heated debate among evangelical Christians. This is the doctrine that **the Bible is fully truthful in all of its teachings**. If God has given special revelation of himself to mankind, we will want assurance that the Bible is indeed **a dependable source** of that revelation.*

Various Ideas of Inerrancy

- Absolute Inerrancy – Holds that the Bible is fully true, even when it cites disputed sources that it may not affirm (eg. – quotes, statistics, etc.)
- Full Inerrancy – Maintains that the Bible is completely true *in all that it affirms*. Full inerrancy leaves room for the use of approximations and general references.
- Limited Inerrancy – The Bible is inerrant only in regard to matters of salvation
- For a more detailed statement of biblical inerrancy, read ***The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy***
- Point of clarity – The doctrine of inerrancy applies in the strict sense only to **the original autographs**, but in a derivative sense to manuscripts & translations, to the extent that they reflect the originals.
- Inerrancy is **the logical consequence** of inspiration.

The Importance of Inerrancy

- Theological Importance – If we argue that God’s Word is not inerrant, not only do we cast doubt on the inspiration of Scripture, but also on the God who inspired it.
- Historical Importance – Generations of Christians have affirmed the inerrancy of Scripture. To doubt inerrancy is to cast doubt on the credibility of their witness.
- Epistemological Importance – If God’s Word is not inerrant, how can we know anything trustworthy about God, His creation, etc?

The Authority of Scripture

- As Creator and Source of all truth, **God has the right** to command belief and obedience from all human beings.
- **The Bible is the Word of God**. The Holy Spirit illuminates and applies the teaching of the Bible to the hearts and minds of His children so that each one will know how to render careful obedience to God.
- God’s Method of Illumination (from John 14-16)
 - Holy Spirit **guides** believers into all truth – 14:26, 16:13
 - Holy Spirit will **bear witness** to (15:26-27) and **glorify** Christ (16:14)
 - Holy Spirit will **convict** the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment – 16:8
- Because Jesus taught the Word of God, He taught *“as one having authority”* (Matt. 7:29)