

## A SUMMARY OF ‘CROOKED CUTS’

### 1. A Text Without a Context

- A. Prooftexting: Stringing together an inappropriate or inadequate series of Bible verses to prove our theology.
- B. Isolationism: Failing to interpret a single Scripture text in light of its context.

### 2. Adding To Scripture

- A. Spiritualizing: Reading a spiritual or historical truth *into* a text rather than extracting truth *from* it.
- B. Nationalizing: Seeing one’s own country as the recipient of national promises made by God in the Bible to Israel.

### 3. Editing God’s Mind

- A. Embellishing: Reading current thinking into the Bible.
- B. Methodologizing: Interpreting the Scripture by means of an unproved theory about the Bible’s literary origin.

### 4. Modernizing the Bible

- A. Accommodation: Viewing Scripture through the lens of human reason.
- B. Culturalizing: Limiting a text to a specific time in history or culture, when in reality the text demands a wider application in time.
- OR
- Extending a past practice or culture into our time which in fact should have been limited historically.

### 5. Twisting Scripture

- A. Redefining: Giving historically accepted biblical words new definitions to support our theology.

B. Anglicizing: Reaching inaccurate conclusions by drawing theology from the English text alone.

C. Mysticizing: Finding hidden meanings in Scripture that can be understood only by the one who knows the 'secret code'.

## **6. Over Literalizing**

A. Letterism: Ignoring figures of speech and drawing woodenly literal conclusions.

B. Legalizing: Overemphasizing the letter of God's Word at the expense of its spirit.

## **7. Reverse Interpretation**

A. Generalizing: Assuming that any specific historical experience reported in Scripture is a valid, general experience for today.

B. Experientializing: Reasoning that if any experience has occurred in Scripture, and I have the same experience, then it must be from God, i.e. using experience to validate Scripture instead of vice versa.

## **8. Over Systematizing**

A. Dogmatizing: Starting with a conclusion, which is then used to interpret the evidence, thereby assuring that the desired conclusion will be affirmed, i.e. circular reasoning.

B. Dispensationalizing: Overemphasizing the variations in God's stewardship of redemption throughout history while minimizing God's never-changing dealings with mankind according to His never-changing character.