

Hermeneutics and Blasphemy

1. **The Bible is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant word of God.**
2. **The goal of hermeneutics is to discover the author's intended meaning.**
3. **The author's intended meaning is always conveyed through the context of his writing.**
4. **The author's intended meaning in every biblical text is always discovered within its own *unique* context.** - As a result, understanding the significance of the author's personal, historical, and geographical situation is important in the interpretation of the text.
5. **The biblical author's intended meaning in every biblical text must be discovered within its own unique grammatical content.**

Eisegesis (reading one's own presuppositions, opinions, and prejudices into the biblical text) causes significant error that results from poor *Exegesis* (allowing the text to reveal its own meaning).

We must be committed to ensure that our scripture interpretation reveals the author's intended meaning by applying proper principles of hermeneutics as we exegete God's Word. Therefore, we must strive to understand both the content and the context (verse, chapter, book) of every biblical text. In considering the grammatical content of a passage, we must focus our attention upon the literary elements that the author chose to embody his discussion.

6. **The author's intended meaning should be interpreted literally, unless either the genre or the figurative language would indicate otherwise.** Consider the famous axiom of hermeneutics: ***"If the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense."***

Proper hermeneutics seek the *literal meaning of the text*.

There are exceptions! If the literal sense is confusing, the text may be employing **figurative language**, such as idioms or figures of speech, which can make the text more vivid or forceful. Figurative language helps make the *"abstract concrete."*

7. **The author's intended meaning in a specific biblical text is informed by the writings of other biblical authors if and when they address the same concepts**
8. **The author's intended meaning in a specific biblical text may have a fuller meaning**, but that meaning can only be determined based on subsequent biblical revelation, including the whole Bible.
9. **The author's intended meaning in a specific biblical text will never contradict his own writings or the rest of the Bible.**
10. **The author's intended meaning in every biblical text has a theocentric and Christological purpose**

Old Testament - Leviticus 24:10-16 (LAW) You BlaspHEME God's name – You die!

New Testament – Matthew – Gospel – Narrative of the life of Jesus.

Matthew 12:32

32 “Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the *age* to come.

What does it say? If you speak abusive words about Jesus, you will be forgiven, but if you speak that same way against the Holy Spirit, you will now be forgiven in this life or the next.

What was the context – The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of using the power of Beelzebub to heal. This is an insult to the Spirit of God who was actually doing the healing.

What did he mean for them to hear? If you keep saying these things and don't look at the truth staring you in the face, you will have to answer to the Spirit of God.

Is there a command to obey in this passage?

Is there an example to follow in this passage?

What does this say to us in 2025? How does this relate to people of all time periods?

1. **What Is Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit?** One of the sins mentioned in Scripture that can strike fear into the hearts of people is the sin: *the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit*. When Jesus talked about this, the words He used were indeed frightening: *“And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come”* (Matthew 12:31-32).

2. **As a Christian, do you need to be concerned about committing this "unforgivable" sin?**

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is when you take the divine work of the Holy Spirit and you speak evil of it, attributing His work to the devil. Rather than a “one-off” event, blaspheming the Holy Spirit is an ongoing rejection of the work of God's Spirit—it is repeatedly attributing His holy, divine work to Satan himself.

When Jesus addressed this topic, he was responding to what the Pharisees had done: *“Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, ‘Could this be the Son of David?’ But when the Pharisees*

heard this, they said, 'It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons'" (Matthew 12:22-24).

The Pharisees by their words were denying the divine work of the Holy Spirit. Even though Jesus was operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, the Pharisees were giving credit for his work to Beelzebub, another name for Satan. By doing this they were blaspheming the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In response to the accusation of the Pharisees, Jesus said, *"Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come"* (Matthew 12:31-32).

So, why is this sin unforgiveable? Of course, because Jesus said so—however, there is more to the answer. If we consider how the Holy Spirit works, we understand why the person who commits this sin can never receive forgiveness.

According to John 16:8-9, one of the primary works of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin. Concerning the Holy Spirit, Jesus said: *"When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me."* Of course, the "he" to whom Jesus is referring is the Holy Spirit.

When a person does not know Jesus as his Lord and Savior, the primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is to convict him of sin and point him to Christ so that he might trust Jesus for salvation.

The Bible is clear that people CANNOT come to Christ unless the Father draws them (John 6:44). It is by the convicting power and confirming presence of the Holy Spirit that the Father draws unbelievers. If people constantly reject the Holy Spirit and speak evil against Him—particularly, if they attribute His presence and work to Satan—they are rejecting the only One who can effectively convict them of sin, influence them to repent, and confirm the truth that the Gospel is the power of salvation (Romans 1:16).

Because of His love for all mankind, Jesus died so that all sin past, present, and future can be forgiven! However, there are some prerequisites before a person's is forgiven.

- Forgiveness requires repentance.
- The personal conviction of sin brings repentance.

- To experience personal conviction, the Holy Spirit must work in the heart and conscience of the sinner so he will recognize his sin, experience sorrow for His sins unto repentance, and realize that his sins can be forgiven in Christ (cf. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

When a person blasphemes, slanders and rejects the convicting and drawing work of the Holy Spirit, they disconnect from the source of conviction. By silencing the Holy Spirit, there is NOTHING or NO ONE who will move that person to repent—WITHOUT REPENTANCE THERE CAN BE NO FORGIVENESS.

Rules for Hermeneutics

1. Let Scripture interpret Scripture.
2. The meaning of a word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph must be derived from the context.
3. Interpret the Scriptures knowing that the goal in interpretation is not to discover hidden secret truths or to be unique in your interpretation.
4. Interpret the Scriptures literally unless you have good reason to believe that they are figurative.
5. Do not interpret Scripture in light of personal experience but interpret experience in the light of Scripture.
6. When interpreting the Scriptures, investigate the meanings of keywords in their original languages. (Blueletterbible.com)
7. Interpret the Scriptures bearing in mind that many commands, directives, and duties were made to an individual and not all people.
8. Interpret the Scriptures keeping in mind that Christians are living under the New Covenant instituted by Jesus, not the Old Covenant that God gave to Israel.