

## What Does It Really Say?

### I. Introduction

A. Part of rightly dividing the Word of truth is to consider the *context* of a given statement of Scripture, and to consider other Bible passages that deal with the same topic. The tendency to take a phrase and “run with it” in whatever direction a person desires leads to many abuses of God’s Word. Consider five examples of this, and what the context shows is really being said in each of these examples.

### II. Claim: “We Aren’t Supposed to Judge Others”

- A. One of the most well-known verses of Scripture is Jesus’ statement, “Judge not, that ye be not judged.” **Matthew 7:1**
- B. While this verse introduces a rich teaching of Jesus, the context is often ignored, so the teaching is often missed. Many use the phrase to assert that we aren’t supposed to do any judging of others. The context teaches something completely different. **Matthew 7:2-5**
- C. The full teaching of Scripture shows that God actually *requires* judging others at times. **Matthew 7:15-16; John 7:24**

### III. Claim: “Paul Showed Baptism Is Not Essential”

- A. Another passage that demonstrates this principle is one in which Paul says he is thankful that he wasn’t the one to have baptized most of the saints at Corinth. **1 Corinthians 1:14, 17**
- B. Ignoring the context, many conclude that Paul here is denying the necessity of baptism for one to be saved. Yet, in the context, Paul actually gives a completely different explanation for what he meant by his statement. **1 Corinthians 1:12-15**
- C. Moreover, Paul made statements elsewhere that show clearly baptism’s essentiality for one to be saved. In fact, Paul was the one inspired by the Holy Spirit to twice write the words, “baptized into Christ.” **Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3 (Gal. 3:27)**

### IV. Claim: “Paul Was Misogynistic”

- A. Another example of Paul’s words being misconstrued has to do with commands he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to give concerning women. Twisting the apostle’s teachings about the subordinate role of women has led many to view Paul as a misogynist. **1 Corinthians 14:34-35; Titus 2:4-5** (cf. **1 Tim. 2:11ff**)
- B. Yet, Paul was simply writing what our perfect God inspired him to. His statements giving women different roles than men don’t assert that either gender is superior to the other, but simply show God’s will concerning the distinctions He desires between the two genders. Comments made by Paul elsewhere make it clear that he wasn’t at all prejudiced against women. **Romans 16:1-4**

### V. Claim: “We’re All Born with Sin”

- A. Passages dealing with the entrance of sin and death into the world are also sometimes abused to assert that “we inherit Adam’s sin.” **1 Corinthians 15:22**
- B. This assertion misses both the point of the passages, as well as the broader teaching of Scripture concerning sin. Scripture makes clear that we all have free will and are each personally responsible any time we sin. No one is born with sin. **1 Corinthians 15:21; 2 Corinthians 5:10**

### VI. Claim: “God Will Make All My Aspirations Come True”

- A. A final example has to do with Paul’s beloved statement, “I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.” **Philippians 4:13**
- B. While this verse is filled with meaning, the meaning is often missed because the context is ignored. Some treat the verse as if God is telling us that any earthly desires we have will be fulfilled if we believe in Jesus. Yet, the context teaches something different. **Philippians 4:11-12**