

VARIATIONS ON THE DOCTRINE OF INERRANCY

1. ABSOLUTE INERRANCY

- Affirms plenary/verbal inspiration while trying to distance itself from a mechanical dictation view of inspiration.
- Affirms the accuracy of the Bible in all matters, including science and history “*to a great degree of precision!*” (Harold Lindsell)

*2. CRITICAL (NATURAL) INERRANCY

- Makes cautious use of critical methodologies such as form and redaction criticism.
- Affirms the truth of everything in the Bible to the degree of precision *intended by the author*.
- Usually regards biblical references to scientific matters as **phenomenal** (how they appeared to the writer).
- Does not seek to harmonize every detail of Scripture because it recognizes that the authors wrote for different purposes. (Al Mohler; Danny Akin; Bruce Ware; J.I. Packer; D.A. Carson; Chicago Statement).

3. LIMITED INERRANCY

- Affirms the Bible is *inerrant in all matters of faith and practice*, as well as matters which can be empirically verified.
- Inspiration does not grant modern understanding; hence the Bible may contain errors of science or history, but it did secure fully truthful teaching about belief and behavior. (I.H. Marshall).

4. NUANCED INERRANCY

- Affirms that how one understands inerrancy *depends on the type of biblical literature* under consideration.
- Some portions, such as TEN COMMANDMENTS, seem to have been given through a mechanical dictation form of inspiration. The epistles and historical materials might be described as given by verbal inspiration. A book like Proverbs seems to require a more free view (poss. dynamic view). (Clark Pinnock).

5. FUNCTIONAL INERRANCY (Infallibility of purpose)

- Affirms that the purpose of the Bible is to bring people to salvation and growth in grace. The Bible accomplishes its PURPOSE without fail.
- Affirms that the Bible is *sufficiently accurate* in factual matters to accomplish its PURPOSE, but seeks to avoid describing the inerrancy of Scripture primarily in terms of FACTICITY. Instead, it speaks of the Bible in terms of trustworthiness and faithfulness. (Jack Rogers, Donald McKim).

6. SPONTANEOUS INERRANCY (View from the Pew!)

- An expression of simple trust and faith in the Bible.
- Often marked by little, if any awareness of, or interest in scholarly discussions of the doctrine of inerrancy. (Ma and Pa Baptist).