

Application: How Does It Work In Real Life?

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THE STEPS TO APPLICATION

- ❖ Clothing Truth with Overalls!
- ❖ How can Biblical truth change my life?

Application is always built on interpretation. If the interpretation is wrong, the application will be wrong. Caution! Never attempt to apply before observing and interpreting.

1. Be aware of the problems to application.

- A. Some stop the hermeneutical process before it is complete! Howard Hendricks says, "Observation and Interpretation without Application is Abortion!"
"Let the baby go full term."
Remember: The Bible was not written to make us smarter sinners, but holy saints.
- B. We substitute knowledge for experience.
Key question to ask: "Do I know a lot more, or do I live a lot better?" (cf. 1 Cor. 8:1)
- C. We like to apply to areas we already are working on and neglect new avenues of need.
- D. We rationalize the process to fit our present lifestyle.
- E. We allow an emotional experience to be substituted for a volitional decision.
- F. Pressures from society cause us to compromise what we know to be true.
- G. Our prejudice and spiritual truth come into conflict.
"Most of us don't think; we just rearrange our prejudice."
- H. Ignorance.

WE SHOULD LOOK TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE OF THE TEXT, THEN TO OURSELVES, THEN ASK 4 KEY QUESTIONS:

1. How are we like them?
2. How are we unlike them?
3. How should we be like them?
4. How should we be unlike them?

2. Know the interpretation of the text bridging the hermeneutical horizons (gap).

Beware of the error of the fork. To take the wrong path is to diverge more and more from the truth.

3. Know you applicational situation. Remember: the interpretation is one but the application is many.

- A. Know yourself. (1 Tim. 4:16)
 - 1. Your strengths/assets. It will build confidence.
 - 2. Your weaknesses/inabilities. (Rom. 12:3) It will encourage humility and build faith.
- B. Know your people - age, background, individual needs, etc.

4. State your application in the form of a universal principle.

Ultimate principle to remember: the solution to your problem is a person (Jesus Christ).

- A. Be in line with the needs, interests, questions, and problems of today.
This is the key to relevance.

<u>THERE ARE TWO HISTORIES AND YOU MUST BRIDGE THE HORIZONS:</u>		
ORIGINAL HISTORY		OUR HISTORY
<u>Colossae A.D.60-63</u>	<u>COLOSSIANS</u>	<u>Raleigh/Durham 2006</u>
Truth revealed out of “the then”	between two worlds Principle Bridges	Truth reborn into “the now”

- B. Be in harmony with the general tenor of Scripture. The analogy of faith:
Scripture will not contradict Scripture.
- C. Be specific enough to indicate a course of action. 13 Questions to ask:
 - 1. Is there an example for me to follow?
 - 2. Is there a sin to avoid/confess?
 - 3. Is there a promise to claim?
 - 4. Is there a prayer to repeat?
 - 5. Is there a command to obey?
 - 6. Is there a condition to meet?
 - 7. Is there a verse to memorize?
 - 8. Is there an error to avoid?
 - 9. Is there a challenge to face?
 - 10. Is there a principle to apply?
 - 11. Is there a habit to change - i.e. start or stop?
 - 12. Is there an attitude to correct?
 - 13. Is there a truth to believe?

5. Saturate your mind in terms of relationships.

Proposition: Christianity is best understood as a series of new relationships.

APPLICATION

A dynamic process of change

IN CHRIST

Education

Social

Business

Church

Values

Thought

Home Life

Sex

cf. 2 Cor. 5:17

*Jesus invades and
changes*

every area of our life.

- A. Probe your passage with questions regarding the relationships of life.
- B. Take the leash off your mind and let it run freely. (See how many relationships can be affected by this truth.)
- C. Forget the critical. Examine every possible area even if it seems trivial.
- D. Plug into real life.
 - Be realistic - concentrate on the concrete vs. abstract thinking.
 - Think vicariously - see through the eyes of others.
 - Expose yourself to people and life.

6. Consciously Practice.

- A. Remember - you have not applied until you have practiced.
- B. There is great danger of trafficking in un-lived truth. Vance Havner said, "What we live is what we believe. Everything else is just so much religious talk."
- C. The practice itself will be a commentary on your understanding of the truth.
- D. You cannot adequately apply to others what you have not applied to yourself.
- E. You cannot be diligently applying everything but you should be consciously applying something.

TWO QUESTIONS:

- 1. What am I trusting God for right now?
- 2. What is my plan of action?

Fenelon said, "The essence of Christianity resides in the will."

Maturity is not a mechanical process of addition but a dynamic process of growing. One reason why people do not change is they have no plan of action.

IN SUMMATION - How should my character, conduct, or conversation be effected by the Word of God?

How should this truth affect my:

- Attitudes - toward God, others, circumstances
- Knowledge of God
- Behavior - habits to develop, habits to change, habits to confirm
- Relationships - Where do I need to forgive, seek forgiveness, encourage, rebuke, submit, lead?
- Motives - Am I doing right for the wrong reasons?
- Values and Priorities - Who or what comes first? Who or what should?
- Character

Application requires a decision and a specific plan of action in order to allow the Holy Spirit to make scriptural principles part of us.

A word about habits: Here is where the "rubber meets the road." It takes about three months to change a habit and the enemy knows this very well. Be ready for conflict and failure mixed with success. The Lord has, however, predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son, so ... keep plugging! (Rom. 8:28-30)

IN BRINGING THE SCRIPTURES TO LIFE, VIEW YOUR LIFE AS A SERIES OF NEW RELATIONSHIPS:

A. WITH GOD

1. A truth to understand
2. A command to obey
3. A prayer to express
4. A challenge to heed
5. A promise to claim
6. A fellowship to enjoy

B. WITH YOURSELF

1. A thought or word to examine
2. An action to take
3. An example to follow
4. An error to avoid
5. An attitude to change or guard against
6. A priority to change
7. A goal to strive for
8. A personal value or standard to hold up
9. A sin to forsake

C. WITH OTHERS

1. A witness to share
2. An encouragement to extend
3. A service to do
4. A forgiveness to ask
5. A fellowship to nurture
6. An exhortation to give
7. A burden to bear
8. A kindness to express
9. A hospitality to extend
10. An attitude to change or guard against
11. A sin to forsake

D. WITH SATAN

1. A person to resist
2. A device to recognize
3. A temptation to resist
4. A sin to avoid and confess
5. A piece of spiritual armor to wear

-adapted from *Unlocking the Scriptures* by Hans Finzel