



Interpretation

The last two weeks...

10 Step for discovering

The Message

The last two weeks...

7 Step for discovering

The Meaning

This week...

Applying these

17 Interpretation Skills

to Ephesians 4

Obviously we don't have
time to demonstrate all
17 interpretation methods that
we covered in the past two weeks.
But I want to highlight a few.

Step for discovering

The Message

Step 3

Remember that context rules.



The third step
to discovering the
message is to always
keep in mind that
scripture must always
be interpreted within
the **immediate** context
in which it is found.



Remember the key theme 1/3:

**Believers unifying
in God/Christ.**

Remember the key theme 2/3:

**Believers unifying
in doctrine/thinking.**

Remember the key theme 3/3:

**Believers unifying
in living/acting both
positively and negatively.**

Unity of the believers in their (1) understanding of their position in Christ, (2) unity in their doctrine/thinking about the world and the truth and (3) unity in their living out of the truth.

Summary of Ephesians 4:

Paul challenges the believers to (1) **walk** in a manner that is worthy of their incredible position in Christ. He tells them that they will **walk more obediently** → (2) the more they collectively **understand** what has happened to them in Christ at salvation and → (3) when they are collectively unified under sound **doctrine**, which is aided by **appointed help**. (4) He concludes by laying out specific ways of walking worthily and unworthily.

Step 7

Keep in mind

Chapter/Paragraph summaries.



The seventh step
is to always interpret
the passage in light of
the Chapter and
Paragraph summaries.
Those summaries
clearly indicate the
author's intent.



Paragraph 1: Verses 1-6

Paul challenges the believers to walk in a manner that is worthy of their incredible position in Christ. Paul emphasizes that though there are many different believers there is one hope and faith, in one Lord and in one God and Father for all who believe.

Paragraph 2: Verses 7-16

Paul tells the believers that God gave them specific gifts and people to help them in their walk and growth. These people are to use their gifts to unify the body of believers in their knowledge of the Son of God, so that they will be able to withstand the schemes and mentality of the world.

Paragraph 3: Verses 17-19

Paul tells the believers that they should not walk the way that they used to, as unbelievers. The minds of the unbeliever are still darkened with sin and ignorance.

Paragraph 4: Verses 20-24

Paul tells the believers that they should walk according to the new knowledge they have about Christ, according to the truth. They are to put off their old way of living and put on their new way of life which is holy and pure.

Paragraph 5: Verses 25-32

Paul lays out specific ways that the believers can put off their old way of life and how they can put on their new way of life. He lists many negative deeds that are to cease and many positive deeds that are to be pursued.

Step 8

Write a summary paragraph.



The eighth step
is to write a summary
paragraph of what you
believe to be God's
original desired message
& intent of the Book &
Chapters.



*“God’s desire in the 4rth Chapter of
Ephesians was to
communicate_____*
& _____
to the believers in/around Ephesus.”

Intent of Ephesians 4:

God's desire in the 4rth Chapter of the Book of Ephesians was to **exhort the believers to live a holy and godly life, a life that was worthy of his calling.**

His desire was that the believers would do so...

- (1) by understand their great position in Christ
- (2) by the renewing of their minds, centering on truth,
- (3) by turning away from worldly thinking/living
- (4) by the aid of appointed leaders/guides.

Step 9

Write new paragraph summaries.



The ninth step
is to write new
paragraph summaries
based around message
and intent. *“God’s desire
in paragraph one was
that...”*



Paragraph 1: Verses 1-6

God's desire in Paragraph 1 was that the believers walk in a manner that is worthy of their incredible position in Christ. Furthermore, his intention was to use his servant Paul as a voice piece to show the people why and how.

Paragraph 2: Verses 7-16

God's desire in Paragraph 2 was that the believers would seek out and submit to the people he ordained to help them in their walk and growth. God's desire was that the whole church would grow in the knowledge of Christ, so that they will be able to withstand the schemes and mentality of the world.

Paragraph 3: Verses 17-19

God's desire in Paragraph 3 was that the believers cease walking the way that they used to, as unbelievers. The minds of the unbeliever are still darkened with sin and ignorance and he does not want the believers to continue to think and live that way.

Paragraph 4: Verses 20-24

God's desire in Paragraph 4 was for the believers to walk according to the new knowledge they have about Christ, according to the truth. He wanted them to continually put off their old way of living and put on their new way of life which is holy and pure, as he is.

Paragraph 5: Verses 25-32

God's desire in Paragraph 5 was that that the believers continually put off their old way of life and daily put on their new way of life.

God's intent was to show them clear examples of the negative deeds of the flesh that are to cease and the many positive deeds of the

Spirit that are to be pursued.

Step for discovering

The Meaning

Step 3

Review/Re-read the book,
focusing on doctrinal truths.



The third step
to discovering the
meaning is to do a
general re-read of the
book and identify any
and all doctrinal
truths/themes
/statements.



¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to walk in a manner worthy of
the calling to which you have been
called, ² with all humility and gentleness,
with patience, bearing with one another
in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of
the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

Believers are to walk in a manner worthy of the calling of God.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

walk in a manner worthy...² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity

Humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance and love are indicators of walking worthily.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

walk in a manner worthy...² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity

Some of the fruits of walking worthily are humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance and love.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

walk in a manner worthy...² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,³ eager to maintain the unity

When a believer is walking worthily they will regularly display humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance and love.

Step 4

List doctrinal themes and issues in clear/concise statements.



The fourth step
to discovering the
meaning is to
translate the intention
and purpose of the
book, chapters and
paragraphs into clear
doctrinal statements.



¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

¹⁷ you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life

Believers should not live the way that they used to live, or the way that the world currently lives. Believers are to put away that life style.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Believers should put on their new way of life which is centered on the nature of God, which is righteous and holy.

Sample Doctrinal Truths/Statements:

²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Believers are to live in righteousness and holiness which occurs when they are renewed in the spirit of their minds.

Step 6

Arrange doctrinal statements
into theological categories.



The sixth step
to discovering the
meaning is to begin to
arrange/categorize
these statements into
theological categories
or groups.



As we study various books of the Bible we must begin to keep track of clear doctrinal statements about each of those groups or categories.

God the Father

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

⁶ one **God and Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

God is the Father and ruler of all and he is over all and he is also in all believers.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of **God** in true righteousness and holiness.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

God is truly & utterly
righteous and holy.

The Holy Spirit

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

³⁰ And do not grieve **the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

The Holy Spirit has sealed the believer within the salvation of God until the day of redemption.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

The Holy Spirit can be grieved
(and pleased) by the actions of
the believer.

Unbelievers

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

¹⁸ **They** are darkened in **their** understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in **them**, due to **their** hardness of heart.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

The minds of the unbeliever are darkened because of their sinful ways.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

The unbeliever is cut off from and alienated from the life of God because of their great ignorance of the truth.

Believers

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge **you** to walk in a manner worthy of
the calling to which **you** have been
called...

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

The believer is to live their life in a way that is worthy of their new calling/position in Christ.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

¹³ until **we** all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers are to strive for unity in the faith, specifically unity regarding their knowledge of the Son of God.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers are to ever-grow into mature follower of Christ by thinking & acting more and more like Christ.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, **we** are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers are to ever-grow into
the model who is Christ.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

¹⁷ Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that **you** must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers should not live the way that the world lives.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

²² to put off **your** old self, which belongs to **your** former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers are to put off or put away the old kind of life; the prior way thinking and acting they had before Christ.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of **your** minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers are to regularly renew their mind by centering their thinking on the knowledge they have of Christ.

Sample Doctrinal Categories:

Believers are to regularly put on their new life by thinking and living in a way that is holy & pure, as God is holy & pure.

You can already see that by focusing on these truths, we are not only clearly identifying the ***INTENTION*** of the passage, but also the ***IMPLICATION...***

which leads to ***APPLICATION.***