

# Don't Swallow Those Bones!

## Exercising Discernment as You Study Missions

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Introduction:

### I. The Importance of Spiritual Discernment

- A. The threat of false teachers and teaching demands vigilant discernment, 1 Ths 5:21-22; cf. 1 John 4:1-6; 1 Tim 4:1-5; Eph 4:14.
- B. The challenge of maintaining a pure and unified church demands careful discernment, 1 Cor 5:12-13; 6:5.
- C. The need to apply the Scriptures to changing life situations demands disciplined discernment, Eph 5:10; John 5:24; Heb 5:14.
- D. The task of forming solid Christian character and testimony demands growing discernment, Phil 1:9-10.

Conclusion: A careless mindset has tragic consequences for doctrinal purity, church health, spiritual growth and Christlike character.

### II. The Character of Discernment

- A. Discernment makes proper \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_, Heb 5:14; cf. Acts 15:19.
- B. Discernment evaluates \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ and draws proper \_\_\_\_\_, Matt 16:2-3; 1 Cor 11:29, 31; Pro 22:3; 24:30-34.
- C. Discernment perceives the proper \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom, Pro 1:2; Eph 5:10.

### III. The Development of Discernment

#### A. The Spiritual Foundation for Developing Discernment

- 1. The \_\_\_\_\_ man has serious problems with discernment, 1 Cor 2:14.
- 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ man has been granted discernment, 1 Cor 2:15-16; cf. 1 John 2:20, 27.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ believer is limited in his ability to discern, 1 Cor 3:1 ff.; Heb 5:11-14.

#### B. The Spiritual Responsibilities for Developing Discernment

1. A Strong \_\_\_\_\_ Expressed in \_\_\_\_\_, Pro 2:3-6; 1 Kings 3:9
2. Continual Bible \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, 2 Tim 3:15-17
3. Active \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Tim 3:15; 1 Ths 5:12; Rom 15:14; Heb 3:13
4. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_! Heb 5:14

#### IV. The Practice of Discernment

##### A. Understand and Apply the Inoculation Principle

1. The Strength of the \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Strength of the \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Strength of the \_\_\_\_\_

##### B. Bring Every Thought Captive to Christ, 2 Cor 10:5

1. Slow Down and Kick Your Mind into Gear, Pro 14:15
2. Precisely Define the Issue or Idea, Pro 18:13
3. Measure It by the Scriptures, 2 Tim 3:15-17

Think in terms of three “boxes”: Biblical, Unbiblical, and Non-Biblical. In which “box” does this idea belong?  
Three helpful questions for measuring the idea are:

- a. Is this clearly taught either \_\_\_\_\_ or by necessary and legitimate \_\_\_\_\_?
- b. Is this \_\_\_\_\_ to the proper understanding of any biblical texts or truths?

c. Is this \_\_\_\_\_ with the teachings of Scripture?

C. Be A Fruit-Inspector, Matt 7:20; 11:19; Pro 22:3

1. A Clarification
2. The Principle: \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_

D. Establish A No-Spin Zone, 1 John 2:21

1. The premises must be relevant to and support the conclusion.
2. The premises must be true (or at least highly probable).

***Dave** is the pastor of Inter-City Baptist Church, the president of Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, and the president of Grace Baptist Mission. He has travelled to Africa numerous times and has taught seminary classes in India, Poland, and East Asia. Pastor Doran authored a booklet (God's Sovereignty and the Spread of the Gospel) and co-authored a book (For the Sake of His Name) on missions. His passion is to see God-centered church planting movements started around the world. Dave and his wife, Claudia, have four sons and one daughter-in-law.*