

WWJD

1. There are some subjects that Jesus is _____ on.
2. Just because Jesus didn't _____ address it doesn't mean we can't have a good idea of what He would have said.

The Bible: More than Jesus' words

3. Many people today are effectively _____ Christians.
4. If Jesus is "silent" on an issue, we're not free to _____ anything we want about it.
 - We can't use His silence to determine our _____.
5. Jesus validated the _____ as God's Word.
 - He was _____ on what God already said.
 - The Old Testament should _____ our understanding on subjects Jesus didn't directly address.
6. The Gospels represent only ___ out of _____ New Testament books.
 - _____ Scripture is God-breathed (___ Tim. 3:16)
 - Paul quoted from Luke in 1 Tim. ___:_____.
 - Peter references Paul's letters as _____ (___ Peter ___:15-16).
7. There is no biblical basis for treating Jesus' words _____ than the rest of the Bible.

Cultural Concessions Jesus Didn't Condemn

8. Skeptics claim Christians should believe God _____ polygamy and slavery.
9. God made concessions in Israel that did not reflect His _____.
 - God's ideal for _____ is found in Gen. 2:24.
 - When the Pharisees challenged Jesus on the morality of _____, Jesus appealed to the authority of those same words (Matt. 19:4-6).

10. We can see when cultural practices did not _____ God's ideal – even when they're not explicitly condemned. (Matt. 19:8-9).

Prohibitions Jesus Didn't Overturn

11. Skeptics mock Christians for being _____. We adhere to teachings on morality, but don't follow other laws.

- Lev. 19:19
- Deut. 22:11
- Lev. 1:10-12

12. There were laws specific to the people of _____; not a command for all people of all times.

13. Some laws reflect the _____ of God Himself and apply to people of all times.

When the Whole Bible is Silent

14. The Bible doesn't explicitly say anything about _____.

- Pro-choice advocates suggest silence _____ permissibility.

15. Every human life has _____ (Gen. 1:27).

- The Bible speaks in ways that assume the _____ are equally human.
 - Jer. 1:5
 - Job 31:15
 - Psalms 139:13
 - Isaiah 44:24
 - Luke 1:41
 - Luke 1:44
 - Galatians 1:15
- The Bible condemns the unjust taking of human life.
 - Exodus 23:7
 - Psalms 106:37-38
 - Proverbs 6:16-19
 - Matt. 5:21
- We can conclude a biblical view assumes that abortion is _____.

Key Points

- (a) Just because Jesus is “silent” on an issue doesn’t mean we’re free to conclude anything we want about it. Both the Old and the New Testament should inform our understanding.
- (b) The example of polygamy demonstrates that God made certain cultural concessions, but we can see when those practices did not reflect His ideal – even when not explicitly condemned elsewhere in the Bible.
- (c) The example of mixed fabrics demonstrates that certain Old Testament laws were intended only for the people of Israel and are no longer applicable today – even when not explicitly overturned elsewhere in the Bible.
- (d) The example of abortion demonstrates that even when the whole Bible is technically “silent” on an issue, much can be inferred from what the Bible *does* say.

How do we talk to our Kids about this?

Opener

- Think of the last time you faced a difficult situation. If you could have asked Jesus what to do, what do you think He would have said?
 - *(Explore how your child knows what Jesus would say even if the Bible doesn’t speak to their exact problem.)*

Going Further

- There are many subjects Jesus didn’t directly talk about. What are some reasons why He wouldn’t have talked about everything we want to know?
 - *(He couldn’t possibly have addressed everything in His short ministry; some things were already in the Old Testament; some things weren’t relevant to people of His day.)*
- If Jesus *did* talk about a subject, do you think that means it’s more important than things he *didn’t* talk about? Why or why not?
 - *(We can’t assume anything about something’s importance or morality based on silence.)*
- In the Old Testament, some of the godly men we read about, like King David, had multiple wives. The Bible never says that this practice is not allowed, but Christians today believe it’s wrong. Why do you think that is?
 - *(Read Gen. 2:24 and explain God’s ideal for marriage. Discuss how God made concessions in ancient Israel that don’t reflect His idea. Use Jesus’ words on divorce as an example.)*
- The Old Testament contains many laws that sound pretty strange to us today. Why do you think we don’t pay attention to the ‘mixed threads’ law even though the Bible doesn’t say it’s ok not to obey it now?
 - *(Explain how the Old Testament contains civil and ceremonial laws that applied only to the people of Israel. Contrast this with moral laws based on God’s unchanging nature.)*
 - *If you’re comfortable discussing abortion with your child, explain that the Bible doesn’t directly address the subject. Ask them to think about things the Bible does say that would be relevant to the issue. Cover the two basic points from tonight.*

August 17, 2022

Application

- A young adult commented online, “I’ve often asked my (devout Christian) parents why some things [from the Old Testament] were okay and others were not and they reply with, ‘That’s the Old Testament, not the New! We don’t have to live that way anymore.
- That’s not how it works . . . you can’t pick and choose what you want to be for and against” How would you respond to both the parents and the commener about those statements>

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2. Just because Jesus didn't explicitly address it doesn't mean we can't have a good idea of what He would have said.

The Bible: More than Jesus' words

3. Many people today are effectively Red Letter Christians.
4. If Jesus is "silent" on an issue, we're not free to conclude anything we want about it.
 - We can't use His silence to determine our evaluation.
5. Jesus validated the Old Testament as God's Word.
 - He was building on what God already said.
 - The Old Testament should inform our understanding on subjects Jesus didn't directly address.
6. The Gospels represent only 4 out of 27 New Testament books.
 - All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - Paul quoted from Luke in 1 Tim. 5:18.
 - Peter references Paul's letters as Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16).
7. There is no biblical basis for treating Jesus' words differently than the rest of the Bible.

Cultural Concessions Jesus Didn't Condemn

8. Skeptics claim Christians should believe God endorses polygamy and slavery.
9. God made concessions in Israel that did not reflect His ideal.
 - God's ideal for marriage is found in Gen. 2:24.
 - When the Pharisees challenged Jesus on the morality of divorce, Jesus appealed to the authority of those same words (Matt. 19:4-6).
10. We can see when cultural practices did not reflect God's ideal – even when they're not explicitly condemned. (Matt. 19:8-9).

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When the Whole Bible is Silent

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 - Pro-choice advocates suggest silence implies permissibility.
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- (b) The example of polygamy demonstrates that God made certain cultural concessions, but we can see when those practices did not reflect His ideal – even when not explicitly condemned elsewhere in the Bible.
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