



1 Corinthians 8-10

- What are the themes that hold this section together?

Dangers

- Culture neutral view / reduced view of culture
- Reduced view of essentials / core – aligning ‘core’ with what is inoffensive – key issue is authority of Bible
- “No need to contextualise” → unconscious of contextualisation – contextualisation inevitable – e.g. femininity and masculinity
- Canon within the canon
- Pietism – personal salvation versus living faithfully in the culture
- Relativism – Bible is trapped in culture and just one culture among many

Sound contextualisation

“It is giving people *the Bible’s answers*, which they may not at all want to hear, *to questions about life* that people in their time and place are asking, *in language and forms* they can comprehend, and *through appeals and arguments* with force they can feel, even if they reject them.” (Keller)

Biblical contextualisation

- Basis – image of God, culture is mixed
- Motive – 1 Cor. 9 – cause the right scandal not the wrong scandal
- Formula – 1 Cor. 1:18ff – use A doctrines to subvert B doctrines

In practice

1. Being aware of own culture, being secure in Christ
2. Embracing the diversity and complexity of the Bible themes
3. Entering, learning another culture, asking questions; What is offensive? How do people communicate? How is authority understood? What is valued? What are the stories?
4. Find A doctrines and B doctrines
5. Drill into rock and plant explosives
6. “Connect biblical truth to the hopes, narratives, fears and errors of people in that particular time and place.”
7. Theologise on relevant issues – e.g. family, bioethics
8. Manner and mode of presentation, emotion, time, language, illustrations, leadership style
9. Appeals – logic, narrative, emotion

In the box or outside the box?

How much you earn.
How much you paid for a large item (sofa, car, house).
How much you pay your staff.
Details of a gruesome accident or crime.
Why you are not married (single person).
What method of contraception you use (married person).
Religious views.



The ages of your children.
How many animals you own.
What you've been doing today.
Your plans (for the rest of the day or the rest of your life).
Where you went on honeymoon.
Pregnancy.
That someone is dying.
Knowledge of locations or official procedures.
Feelings.