

Course Outline

- I. Introduction
 - a. Course topic as a third rail
 - b. Student posting about beliefs re: women and church leadership
- II. Thinking about your hermeneutic for interpreting the Bible
 - a. The hermeneutical lens being used in this course
 - b. Obstacles we face as we interpret Scripture
 - c. Student posting about present methods/principles being used
- III. A case study to help you think about your hermeneutical lens
 - a. In defense of slavery:
 - i. Argument 1: Slavery was divinely sanctioned by the Old Testament patriarchs
 - ii. Argument 2: Slavery was incorporated into Israel's national constitution
 - iii. Argument 3: Slavery was recognized and approved by Jesus Christ and the apostles
 - iv. Argument 4: Slavery is a merciful institution
 - b. Student posting in response to these arguments
- IV. Some building blocks for a more adequate hermeneutic
 - a. An appeal to the Bible does not in itself guarantee a correct interpretation
 - b. We must hear the full testimony of Scripture
 - c. The texts we use should be for their main emphasis, not for some attendant feature
 - d. We look not only at specific words but for broad moral imperatives in Scripture

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- e. Student work through “The Temporary Gospel” self-exercise
- V. The third-rail issue of women and church leadership
 - a. Opinions on women’s roles in the church generally fall into two categories
 - b. There are actually four different positions on the issue
 - c. Student posting, noting questions to pursue or observations to keep in mind

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