

Listen and Obey: The Application of Scripture to Everyday Life

Principles of Application

Application is related to both the _____ and _____ self.

Inner Self:

- _____ . (Matthew 6:25–30)
- _____ . (Matthew 5:27–28)
- _____ . (1 Peter 4:12–13)

Luke 6:45 (NKJV)

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Outer self:

- _____ . (1 Corinthians 13:4–7; Galatians 5:22–23; Romans 12:2)
- _____ . (Matthew 5:43–45; Luke 6:29–31)

Matthew 23:27 (NKJV)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.

The Practice of Application

Universal principles and specific commands.

Universals

- Universal principles are *truth statements* or *application commands* that are broad enough to apply to _____ people for _____ times.
- General principles tell you _____ to do (and sometimes _____), not _____.

Specifics

- Specific commands are *truth statements* or *application commands* that are _____ to a _____ people at a _____ time.
- If applied more broadly (as a universal), the command becomes non-sensical or conflicts with clear biblical teaching.
- Specifics tell you _____ to do (and sometimes _____) and will often tell you _____ to do it.
- Specifics are often directly related to a situation or an occasion.

Applying universal principles (from general to specific)

1 John 3:11 (NKJV)

For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

Questions:

1. Who is the “we” in this passage? Does this same “we” apply to us today? Or does it apply to a different group of people? How closely do the people in the original audience reflect our same situation?
2. What does “love” involve? Is there immediate context that would help us make this distinction? Do we have broader Biblical principles that will help us understand what “love” means in multiple specific contexts?
3. Who is “one another?” Do we have the same ability to act on / relate to these same individuals today?

Applying specific commands (from specific to general to specific)

Philippians 4:2–3 (NKJV)

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.1

1. What do we know about the identities of these two women?
2. What are the women commanded to do? Is there any motivation for this command?
3. What is the “true companion” of Paul urged to do?
4. What general principle should we pull from this specific command (a principle that would apply to all people for all times)?