

Synthetic Bible Study - Part 8

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I. Question and answer.

A. Making a distinction between home and work?

1. This is a necessity. You need to make a clear distinction between what happens in the home and what happens through ministering to others. You want to involve your family in the ministry, but not develop them by bringing the ministry home.

B. What about a person living in the home?

1. This may be beneficial under very clear circumstances, but these need to be well defined.

2. The person can often become a servant in the home - you do not want to develop the servant, but the servant mentality.

C. Deuteronomy 24:5: does our culture change the break for newlyweds rightly?

1. It is very difficult to adjust two lifestyles together. You need time to adjust to your spouse. The principle is what is important behind this Scripture.

2. Marriage is the second most important decision you will make in your life.

3. Organizations need to give newly married couples more time to adapt.

D. How is your wife involved in the ministry?

1. You want your wife to be involved in what you are doing, but you need to have a balanced view about what you share with your wife. You can poison your marriage if you share everything that happens in your ministry.

E. High anxiety and depression.

1. The average Christian leader has unrealistic expectations in terms of now.

2. Depression is an occupational hazard in the ministry. You are fulfilling the role of Satan by becoming the accuser of the brethren. One should not overwork oneself - God does not do it. We are bound by God's perfect and unconditional love.

3. Being depressed is cooperating with the Devil because one denies the reality of being a human being. One has to learn how to manage failure.

4. Relax.

5. God works patiently with us.

6. Our failures help us to minister to others.

7. Christ is the only perfect Person, and He could accept imperfections within the life of his disciples.

F. How can one better train and raise up missionaries?

1. Modeling is one of the most important means to infecting people for a burden for the world. Mission conferences abroad are helpful.

2. One needs to capture the idea that he is a Christian before an American. This does not mean that he should prostitute what God gave him, but he should be willing to renounce his US citizenship for the kingdom of God.

a. The great problem with missions is that we are trying to export Americana with missions.

b. National leaders need to know that missionaries are not exporting Americana, but New Testament principles.

G. What strategy should one suggest for grasping the Word of God?

1. You have to work this out for yourself, but there are some helps.

2. Get into the Gospels.

3. Get into the epistles, especially Romans and Ephesians.

4. Move to Old Testament books such as the historical books.

5. Move into other New Testament Epistles.

6. Move into Poetry and Prophets.

7. Finish off with Prophecy.

8. This is more of a functional study that encourages one to stay with it. It keeps the student interested and allows the student to get a broad taste of the Word.

9. It is better to leave the student of the Word of God longing than loathing.

10. You are also better off starting with a small book.

H. What is the hardest Bible study method?

1. The synthetic method is the hardest method of study.

2. It is very difficult to turn out a student who can synthesize over analyze - the price is costly.

I. Approach to a book.

1. First month: synthesis.
2. Second month: analysis.
3. Third month: topical.

J. The results of synthetically study.

1. Paying the price tag of good study prepares you better than 90% of most seminary students.
2. The results become your own, and you do not have to use somebody else's notes.
3. You can speak more with less preparation.

K. Family planning.

1. A highly individualized matter; you need to ask the Lord and not listen to other Christians, literature or the culture.
2. Some make the lethal mistake of waiting too long for having children on the basis of ministry involvement.
 - a. Children aid the ministry.
 - b. You may grow too old to have children.
 - c. You may be too old to enjoy the kids.
3. If you are not overwhelmingly convinced that God is calling you to adoption, do not go into it - it is very difficult to accept possible rejection from them.