

Webb, William J. **Slaves, Women, & Homosexuals—Exploring the hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis.** Intervarsity Press, Academic.

It discusses finding principles of interpretation (“hermeneutics”) to help us have a more rigorous way of determining which texts or commands are *transcultural* and which are *cultural*--which ones God meant to apply to everyone everywhere forever and ever, and which were temporary and localized to particular community and cultural situation.

He put together the best list I had seen of the kinds of verses that may be problematic when trying to decide whether they still apply in full force today. The rest of the book is a very interesting study in trying to give us some fairly solid principles to guide us rather than just instinct and gut feelings, or our family traditions.

So he suggests asking yourself for each of these texts: Which are *transcultural*, meaning they are in full force today exactly as they were written “on the page,” and which are *cultural*, still in force, but only in part or in a modified fashion through its underlying principle? Enjoy exploring and wrestling!

“God ... said to them [Adam and Eve]: ‘Be fruitful and increase in number’” (Gen. 1:28).

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:5)

“When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce...you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow” (Deut. 26:12).

“Greet one another with a holy kiss” (1 Cor. 16:20).

“Women should remain silent in the churches” (1 or. 14:34).

“Stop drinking only water, and use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses” (1 Tim. 5:23).

“Set apart for the LORD...every firstborn male of your herds and flocks” (Deut. 15:19).

“if a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, he shall pay the girl’s father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the girl, for he has violated her. He can never divorce her as long as he lives” (Deut. 22:28-29).

“Do not approach a woman to have sexual relations during the uncleanness of her monthly period” (Lev. 18:19).

“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman” (Lev. 18:22).

“Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it” (Lev. 18:23).

“Go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt. 28:19).

“Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture” (1 Tim. 4:13).

“Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material” (Lev. 19:19).

“Be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure” (2 Pet. 1:10).

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man” (Gen. 9:6).

“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet” (Jn. 13:14).

“Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel” (Mt. 10:5-6).

“Heal the sick, raise the dead...drive out demons” (Mt. 10:8).

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor” (Lk. 12:33).

“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh- day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work” (Ex. 20:9-10).

“A woman...should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head” (1 Cor. 11:6-7).

“If a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him” (1 Cor. 11:14).

“Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife” (1 Cor. 7:27).

“Every male among you shall be circumcised” (Gen. 17:10).

“Punish him [your child] with the rod and save his soul from death” (Prov. 23:14).

“do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (Mt. 5:42).

“Bless those who persecute you...If your enemy is hungry, feed him” (Rom. 1:14,20).

“Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more” (Prov. 31:6-7).

“Do not...put tattoo marks on yourselves” (Lev. 19:28).

“Praise God with tambourine and dancing...praise him with the clash of cymbals” (Ps. 150:4-5).

“Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly” (Lev. 19:32).

“You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality” (Acts 15:29).

“Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh” (1 Pet. 2:18).

“A woman must not wear men’s clothing, nor a man wear women’s clothing” (Deut. 22:5).

“if a man’s wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him...the priest shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water.... He is to have the woman drink the water” (Nub. 5:12,17,26).

“I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer.... I also want women to dress modestly...not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes” (1 Tim. 2:8-9).

“Do not take interest of any kind from your countrymen” (Lev. 25:36).

“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord” (Jas. 5:14).