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# BIBLE TALK

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This week the question is: **Does the Bible teach by implication?**

There is a view, held by many people, that only what the Bible explicitly says can be bound upon people. Let me define some words here so you will know exactly what I'm speaking about.

**Explicitly** – means "word for word." An explicit statement means a Bible statement that is made plainly – word for word; no vagueness.

**Implicitly** – means reasoning has to be used. Implication means there is a relationship between two statements so that if one statement is true, the other is also true.

Let me give you an example:

## **John 3:16**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

This is an explicit statement. This passage plainly says (word for word) that God loved the world so much He gave His only begotten Son to save the world.

Now, let me give you an example of an implicit statement: "*God so loved Abraham Lincoln that He gave His only begotten Son to save Mr. Lincoln.*" Now this statement is not explicitly given in the Bible. You cannot read this statement word for word in any Bible. But we say the Bible "***implies***" this statement.

There are some people who argue today that only explicit statements can be bound on people. These people argue that implied statements involve human reasoning and are therefore polluted. Human reasoning, we are told, cannot be used to bind religious and moral practices on others.

Before going any further, I just want to pause and make a quick observation: When people argue for binding only explicit (word for word) statements from the Bible, they are actually in a predicament. They are actually binding a law that is not explicitly (word for word) given in the Bible. I find that to be very interesting.

Let me give you another example:

**Revelation 21:8**

8 ... all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire ...

**2 Corinthians 7:10**

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, ...

When these two passages are taken together, here is the conclusion we reach: "*A person today who continues to lie and does not repent of it shall be in the lake that burns with fire.*" Now the Bible did not explicitly (word for word) make this last statement which I just made, but the Bible does imply this.

You see, implication is a way that God teaches man. It is not true that the only way God teaches man is explicitly (word for word). God created man with the ability to put statements together and draw a conclusion which was not explicitly made. Human reasoning must be used and human reasoning does not pollute the truth which God intended man to learn.

**Isalah 1:18**

18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, ...

According to this, God Himself is asking man to use the reasoning abilities which he was created with and learn the truth. Using the reasoning abilities which God created us with does not pollute truth.

We will continue our thoughts on this next week. If you would like to have our notes in writing on this subject as we study it, please leave your name and phone number at the sound of the tone.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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