

Seven Guidelines for Interpreting Scripture

1. Recognize that Jesus Christ is the center of Scripture
2. Let the focus be on the plain text of Scripture, to the grammatical and historical context, rather than to allegory or subjective fantasy
3. Depend upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit in interpreting and applying God's message
4. Be guided by the doctrinal consensus of the church, which is the rule of faith
5. Let all interpretations be in accord with the rule of love, the two-fold commandment to love God and to love neighbor
6. Remember that interpretation of the Bible requires earnest study in order to establish the best text and to interpret the influence of the historical and cultural context in which the divine message has come
7. Seek to interpret a particular passage of the Bible in light of all of the Bible

*From **Biblical Authority and Interpretation**, a resource document received by the 194th General Assembly (1982) of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and affirmed by the PC(USA) in 1992.*