

Ask Me Anything - Part 1 Study Guide

[Watch the Sunday Sermon HERE!](#)

This week's question: *How can two equally-committed Christians read the same Bible and reach some very different conclusions on big issues?*

One reason that equally-committed Christians might disagree on what the Bible says is because the Bible can be mysterious sometimes. In fact, God seems to be more comfortable with a little mystery and ambiguity than we are. In this week's message, we explored a few possible sources of "biblical mystery."

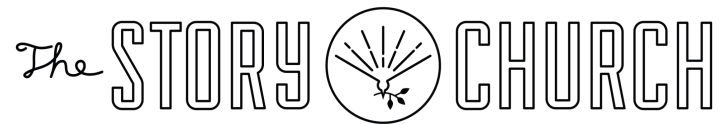
1. Human ignorance can lead to confusion about Scripture. Sometimes, we're just not ready to understand God's Word, but, given some time, we may come to understand it later in life. Have you ever experienced confusion with Scripture that was resolved as you grew older and wiser?

(Supporting Scripture - Luke 18:31-34; 1 Corinthians 14:33)

2. Unresolved sin can also cause the Bible to seem confusing or frustrating. Have you ever seen someone (or maybe it was you) who seemed angry or confused about Scripture because they were more in love with their sin than they were with God?

(Supporting Scripture - Genesis 3:1; James 4:7)

3. Intentional paradox in the Bible can also make it seem ambiguous. Throughout the scriptures, God offers one paradox after another (up is down, slaves are leaders, wealth is poverty, suffering is a blessing, life is death, death is life, etc). What do you make of the paradoxes found in the Bible?



Seemingly Biblical Paradoxes:

- Isaiah 9:6/Matthew 10:34
- Matthew 11:30/Matthew 7:14
- Romans 3:28/James 2:24

The most confounding paradox might be the Bible's insistence that God is both *just* and *merciful*, such as when Jesus said "I came to bring judgment to the world" in John 9:39, and "I did not come to judge the world" in John 12:47. How can both of these statements be true?

Another source of significant disagreement among Christians is our failure to distinguish between the essentials and the non-essentials of our faith. What are the essentials of the Christian faith?

(Supporting Scripture - Romans 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

How does reading the Bible through the lens of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection help us unlock a deeper understanding of Scripture?

(Supporting Scripture - Luke 24:13-35)