

CONTRADICTION

Contradiction: the fact of something being the complete opposite of something else or very different from something else, so that one of them must be wrong. A logical incongruity. *Contra=in opposition / Diction—choice of words.*

What many see as opposite words in the Bible are really paradoxes,
a SEEMING contradiction.

2023 Theme: ABUNDANCE

Abundance is TIED to God's Word (Psalm 1:1-3, Matthew 7:24-27).
If the devil can get you to doubt God's Word, he steals your abundance.

Ways the Bible is Manipulated

1. DISTORT to support

People focus on only one side of the contradiction/paradox to support their erroneous viewpoint. They don't look at the other perspectives of the truth.

Judge Not

Luke 6:37—"Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

- Contradicts other Scriptures: John 7:24; 1 Corinthians 14:29; 15:11-13
- Parallel passage: Matthew 7:1-5 (the context of Matthew 6:2,5,16 is hypocrisy).

Matthew 7:5—"Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

The Context of "Judge Not"—Jesus is not telling us to live without with DISCERNMENT. He is telling us to speak into the lives of other believers, but be very careful and never judge hypocritically.

2. Amiss So DISMISS

Because the Bible appears to contradict itself, means it is all untrue.

Keys to Finding the Real Meaning of Scripture

1. Understand the CONTEXT: what's before and after the verse, who wrote it, to whom was it written, what's the major theme, what is God trying to say through this author? How does culture of that time period influence it?
2. Interpret Scripture with other SCRIPTURES: the best way to understand the Bible is with the Bible. Don't build a doctrine on one verse that contradicts the general tenor of the Word.
3. Apply what you LEARN: The Bible is not a book to be studied as much as it is to be God's letter to us to be lived.

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