

---

---

# Overview of Affirming Theology

By Alicia Johnston

---

# What people are saying

The Bible needs to be carefully interpreted, when it is it's affirming

The Bible is clear in it's plain meaning and interpretation doesn't change it

# What was the ancient question?

- What associations of values and culture inform their question?
- What real-life situations from scripture (and culture) inform the question?

# Modern and ancient question assumed to be the same

- What associations of values and culture inform their question?
- What real-life situations from scripture (and culture) inform the question?

## How does the text relate to the biblical themes?

- How would those verses have functioned to reflect God's character?
- How does the big-picture meaning of the biblical purposes of God impact the ancient question?

## Biblical themes are ignored or forced to fit after the fact.

- Not asking how love, mercy, and justice influence how we answer our question.
- First we answer our question then try to make it fit with love, mercy, and justice.

## What is the modern question?

- What assumptions are being made in our question that are based on our culture?
- Why are we asking these questions today?

## “Word studies” are emphasized.

- Rapid jumping from verse to verse.
- Lack of a broad understanding of the chapters, books, genres, or author's intent.

## How well does our modern question fit their ancient question?

- Do they function in the same way, stopping the same behaviors?
- Do they function in different ways, stopping different behaviors?

## Biblical literalism is valued over understanding.

- Inconsistent and selective proof-texting that ironically is more biased.
- Grammar is valued over meaning in an almost mathematical approach to language.