**Setting a Context of Meaning (Session 1, 1 Corinthians)**

**NO APPLICATION,**

**CHRISTIAN LIVING**

**B**

**I**

**F “CONTEXTUALIZED”**

**U FROM ‘MEANT’ TO**

**R APPLICATION WITHIN**

**C OUR WORLD**

**A**

**T “MEANT”**

**I IS ORIGINAL AUTHOR’S**

**O INTENTION FOR US TO KNOW**

**N**

**Note 1:** The “cycle” arrows represent the “wholeness” of the process. Theoretical question: what can you NOT do without in the cycle? [to answer the question ruins the model but is necessary to think about]

**Note 2:** What does “NO Bifurcation” mean?

**Note 3:** The term “contextualization” is used to represent the **process of applying an ancient document’s meaning to a current cultural context.** This process is as old as the Bible (even the NT did it with the OT and both within each). The term, however took on a focused meaning within missions: **“making concepts and methods relevant to a new historical situation**.” REAL connections, not just moralization.

**Note 4: Must remember descriptive and prescriptive issue.**

“Contextualization” is a term that emerged as modern missions endeavored to apply the Bible in a variety of world cultures (term emerged in 1972). The idea was applied by a wide continuum of denominations with a resulting liberal/existential (World Council of Churches) to conservative (working out meant to means) methodology.

I will not unpack this domain here, but those interested can surface (try google) some literature on this issue.

Engle, Richard W. “Contextualization in Missions: A Biblical and Theological Appraisal.” *Grace Theological Journal* 4.1 (1983): 85-107.

Hesselgrave, David J. “Contextualization Continuum.” *The Gospel in Context* 2:3 (1979).

Hesselgrave, David J. and Rommen, Edward. *Contextualization: Meanings, Methods, and Models.* William Carey Library, 2000.

All of this is based on and responsible to biblical hermeneutic paradigms to determine “meant.”

The debate relates to **HOW** Scripture is “relevant” in cultures after Bible times. Preaching in any post-biblical culture requires “contextualization,” but how the “product” relates to the original Scripture is the issue. **The “meant” is worked into “means” without losing the continuity of meaning between the two.**