



Abusing Scripture: The Consequences of Misreading the Bible

By Manfred Brauch



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Virtually all Christians recognize the centrality of the Bible to their faith. Yet many Christians misquote and misapply Scripture regularly. Often those who are most passionate about the authority of the Bible are at the greatest loss when it comes to understanding its message clearly and applying it faithfully. Professor Manfred Brauch believes this kind of mistaken interpretation and application of Scripture is a detriment to the integrity of our Christian witness and contributes to profound misunderstandings in Christian belief and practice. In this practical book written with the non-specialist in mind, Manfred Brauch identifies and corrects a number of basic errors that interpret and apply biblical texts in ways that distort their meaning and message. Chapters explore issues of context, genre, consistency, author intent and other important considerations, addressing not just the act of interpretation, but also the attitudes behind the ways we choose to apply Scripture. Whether you lead a Bible study or small group, are a pastor or Sunday school teacher, are engaged in biblical study at a college or seminary, or are just an everyday Christian who wants to understand how to interpret God's Word well and recognize good interpretation (or the lack thereof) when you encounter it, this important book will be an invaluable guide.

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Editorial Review

Review

A useful edition to a church or an academic library. (NG, Church Libraries, Fall 2009)

I strongly recommend Dr. Brauch's book for those with the terrifying task of daring to try to teach God's truth to others. (Brian Proffit, The Equipping Ministry Blog (equippingministryblog.com), July 22, 2009)

Abusing Scripture offers a sixfold taxonomy of ways evangelicals are guilty of "doing violence to" Scripture. Throughout his discussion of this taxonomy, Brauch returns to three illustrations of these kinds of abuses in practice. Brauch avoids low-hanging fruit with his choice of examples. Instead, he focuses on attitudes and practices that are deeply entrenched in the evangelical community: its reflexive patriotism and knee-jerk support for America's wars, its still-too-common defense of patriarchy, and its privileging of evangelism over social concern. (George P. Wood, AG Think Tank (agthinktank.com), May 13, 2009)

"Manfred Brauch defends the Bible the way one defends a lion: by simply letting it out of its cage. Once out, it can take care of itself quite well, thank you. But there are those who would cage the Bible with obscurantist, selective and bowdlerized readings. And worse, they are the Bible's friends, not its avowed enemies. Like dysfunctional families, they abuse the one they think they love. Brauch loves the Bible, and he uses his considerable skill as a scholar to invite us once more to really hear the Lion roar." (Ben Patterson, campus pastor, Westmont College, and author of *He Has Made Me Glad and Waiting*)

"*Abusing Scripture* calls into question both the easy assumption of the Reformed emphasis on the perspicuity of Scripture and the presumption that those who declare the Bible to be the infallible or even inerrant Word of God will agree about what it teaches and illustrates. What it proves instead is that 'rightly dividing the word of truth' is a difficult and contentious matter--a matter demanding close attention to historical, literary and theological context; intention; and even the nature of language itself. Still the stakes are worth the effort. Too much rides on getting right the original meaning and present application. Professor Manfred Brauch not only helps Bible readers to identify the troubling issues but also provides a way of dealing with them." (James W. Sire, author of *Scripture Twisting, The Universe Next Door* and, with coauthor Carl Peraino, *Deepest Differences: A Christian-Atheist Dialogue*)

About the Author

Manfred T. Brauch (Ph.D., McMaster University) is retired professor of biblical theology and past president of Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Set Free to Be: A Study in Romans*, and *Hard Sayings of Paul*, and a contributor to *Hard Sayings of the Bible*. Since 2004, Brauch and his wife have done long-term volunteer work in medical missions and theological education in Chile, Russia and Cameroon, West Africa.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daisy Richardson:

Now a day those who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the

resources included can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the reply is reading a book. Examining a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information especially this Abusing Scripture: The Consequences of Misreading the Bible book as this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

Valentin Gonzalez:

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read the book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Abusing Scripture: The Consequences of Misreading the Bible it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book provides high quality.

Betty Neal:

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