

1

What to
Look For

- Who did the translating?
 - One man or many?
 - One background or many?
- What was their attitude toward the scriptures?

2

Attitude Toward Scripture

- Do they believe the scriptures are from God?
- Do they believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the scriptures?
 - Verbal - indicates that God gave inspired men actual words to write, not just concepts or ideas
 - Plenary - "full" or "complete"; i.e. God completely inspired all of the scriptures, not just parts

3

What to Look For

- Who did the translating?
- What was their attitude toward the scriptures?
- What was their translation philosophy?

4

Formal Equivalence

- Word-for-word
- Essentially literal
- Each word is translated as well as possible
- Includes:
 - King James Version
 - New King James Version
 - American Standard Version
 - New American Standard Bible
 - English Standard Version

5

Dynamic Equivalence

- Thought-for-thought
- Each thought is translated as well as possible
- Includes:
 - New International Version
 - New Living Translation
 - Contemporary English Version

6

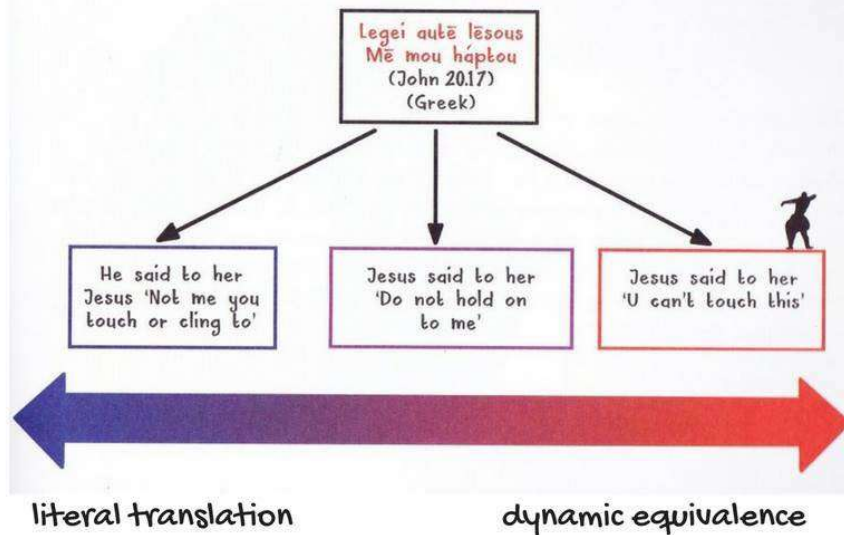
Paraphrase

- A restatement of the meaning of a text or passage using other words
- A paraphrase aims to explain the meaning, using intentionally different words
- Includes:
 - The Living Bible
 - The Message

7

BIBLE TRANSLATION

© Theologygrams by Rich Wylid



8

What Do The Scriptures Say?

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 - "12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

9

What Do The Scriptures Say?

Galatians 3:16 - "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ."

10

What Do The Scriptures Say?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

11

Idioms

- Idioms are difficult to translate word-for-word
- When accurate, still hard to understand
- "under the weather"
- "bite the bullet"
- "hit the sack"

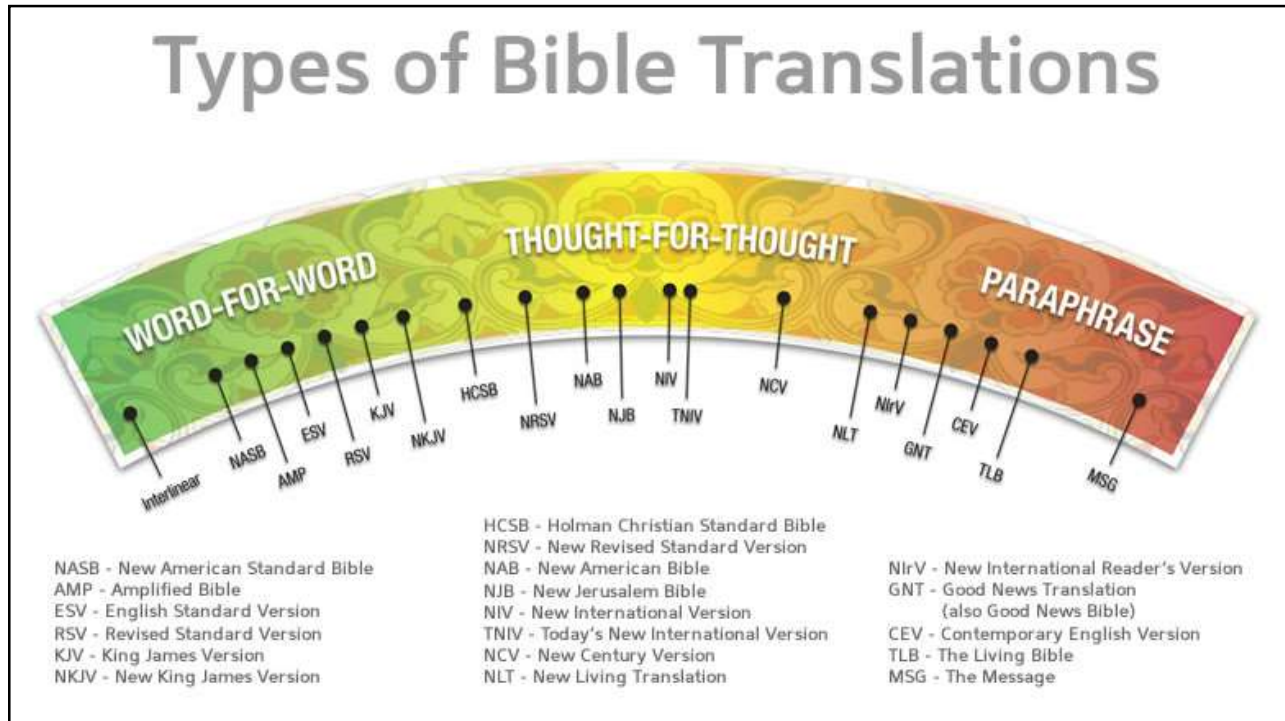
12

2 Major Manuscript Families	
<u>Byzantine Family</u>	<u>Alexandrian Family</u>
Over 5,000 manuscripts (About 95%)	Less than 200 manuscripts (About 3-4%)
Earliest Date: 5th Century	Earliest Date: 2nd Century
Geneva Bible, KJV, NKJV	ESV, NIV, NASB, NLT, HCSB
Closer in Location to WHERE the NT was written	Closer in Date to WHEN the NT was written

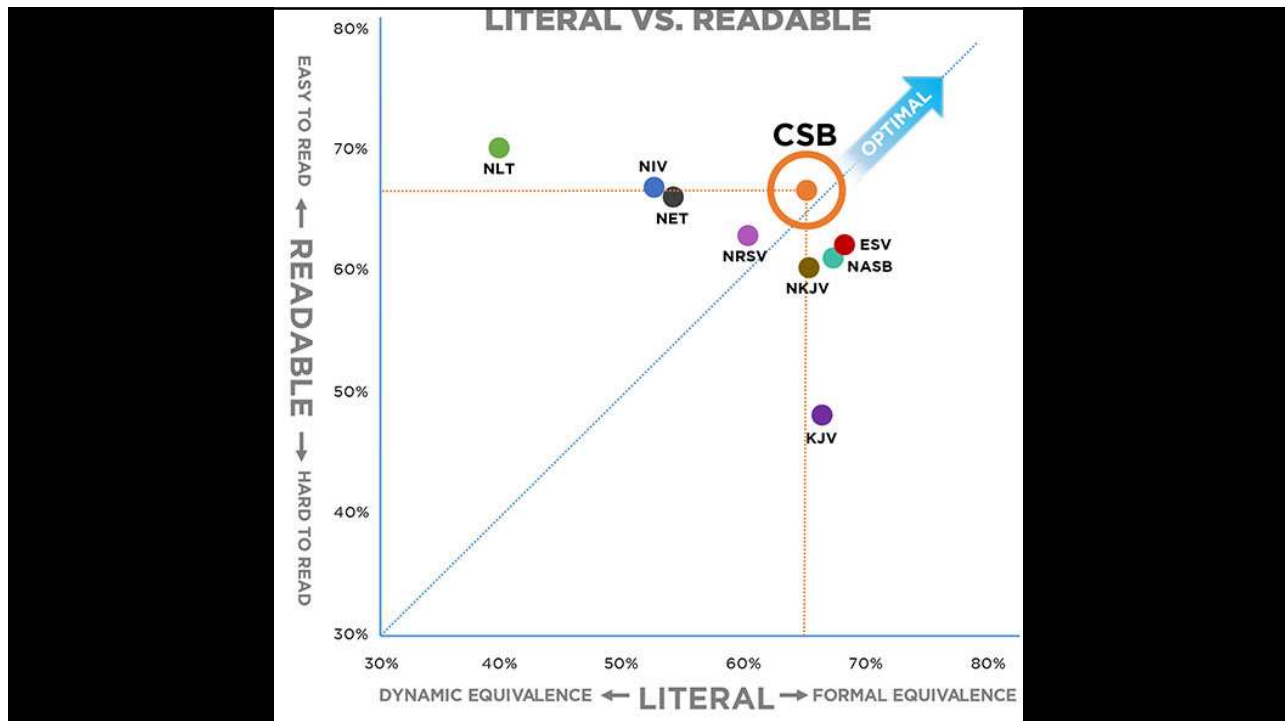
13

Textual Theories	◦ <i>Textus Receptus</i>
	◦ Majority Text
	◦ Critical Text

14



15



16

TRANSLATION COMPARISONS							
	Formal (word-for-word)				Dynamic (thought-for-thought)		
Translation name	NASB New American Standard Bible	ESV English Standard Version	KJV King James Version	NKJV New King James Version	CSB Christian Standard Bible	NIV New International Version	NLT New Living Translation
Reading level	11th grade	10th grade	12th grade	7th grade	7th grade	7th grade	6th grade
Originally published	1971	2001	1611	1982	2017	1978	1996
John 3:16 "In this way" is the correct translation of the Greek <i>hōtōs</i> , a word that indicates more of the manner in which God loved the world rather than the extent to which he loved it; "one and only Son" is a more accurate translation of the Greek <i>monogenēs</i> .	For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.	For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.	For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.	For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.	For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.	For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
Psalms 1:1 The CSB preserves the poetic symbols of "walk," "stand," and "sit." "Happy" is a better translation of the Hebrew in this context. Also, the English idiom of "standing in someone's way" could be misunderstood.	How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers!	Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;	Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.	Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;	How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers!	Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,	Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.
Amos 4:6 "Cleansness of teeth" is a Hebrew idiom meaning hunger, not good dental hygiene; CSB's rendering gives clarity for a modern audience.	"But I gave you also cleansness of teeth in all your cities And lack of bread in all your places, yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.	"I gave you cleansness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.	And I also have given you cleansness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.	"Also I gave you cleansness of teeth in all your cities, And lack of bread in all your places; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.	I gave you absolutely nothing to eat in all your cities, a shortage of food in all your communities, yet you did not return to me. This is the LORD's declaration.	"I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.	"I brought hunger to every city and famine to every town. But still you would not return to me," says the LORD.

Note: Original release dates used for comparison. Some translations have had updates or changed names since their original release. See more comparisons at CSBible.com

17

Translation	Reading Level	Translation Philosophy	Target Audience	2 Corinthians 10:13	Distinctives
AMP Amplified Bible	11	Word-for-word plus additional amplification of word meanings	Those looking for more detailed shades of meaning in Scripture	"We on the other hand, will not boast beyond our legitimate province and proper limit, but will keep within the limits [of our commission which] God has allotted us as our measuring line and which reaches and includes even you."	A popular translation used to understand the hidden meaning of Greek and Hebrew words. Published in 1964 (updated in 1987). Break through the language barrier.
CEV Contemporary English Version	5.4	Thought-for-thought	Unchurched	"We won't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work that God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work."	Written at an elementary-school reading level, the CEV is readable and understandable for the modern reader. Published in 1995.
ESV English Standard Version	7.4	Word-for-word	Bible readers of all ages	"But we will not boast beyond limits, but will boast only with regard to the area of influence God assigned to us, to reach even to you."	A literal update of the Revised Standard Version, seeks to produce word-for-word correspondence. Published in 2001.
God's Word Translation	4.3	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Christians and non-Christians; adults and children	"How can we brag about things that no one can evaluate? Instead, we will only brag about what God has given us to do—coming to [the city of Corinth] where you live."	Published in 1995, a meaning-based, contemporary translation utilizing the thought-for-thought translation philosophy.
HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible	7.5	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Bible readers of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but according to the measure of the area [of ministry] that God has assigned to us, [which] reaches even to you."	A translation that attempts to combine both formal and dynamic equivalence. Published in 2004.
KJV King James Version	12	Word-for-word	Conservative Protestant	"But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you."	Traditionally loved and accepted by all Christians. Purpose in translation was "to deliver God's book unto God's people in a tongue which they can understand." Published in 1611. Timeless Treasure.
The Message A Paraphrase	5.5-10 depending on the passage	Thought-for-thought. Converts the original languages into the tone and rhythms of modern-day American speech while retaining the idioms and meaning of the original languages	Christians who want a fresh Bible-reading experience and seekers	"We aren't making outrageous claims here. We're sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you."	This paraphrase was translated using the rhythms and tone of contemporary English to communicate to the modern reader. Complete Bible published in 2002.
NAB New American Bible	6.6	Word-for-word	Catholic	"But we will not boast beyond measure but will keep to the limits God has apportioned us, namely, to reach even to you."	Published under the direction of Pope Pius XII, this Catholic version of the Bible represents more than 25 years of effort by the Catholic Biblical Association of America. All editions include the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books. Published in 1970.

18

NASB New American Standard Bible	11	Word-for-word	Conservative, evangelical Protestant	"But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you."	A highly respected, formal translation of the Bible. Purpose of the work was to update the American Standard Version into more current English. Published in 1971. Updated in 1995. The most literal is now more readable.
NCV New Century Version	5.6	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Those who want a highly readable translation of the Bible in today's language	"But we will not brag about things outside the work that was given us to do. We will limit our bragging to the work that God gave us, and this includes our work with you."	Based on the ICB (International Children's Bible), it's a readable and simple translation using the thought-for-thought translation methodology. Published in 1991.
NIV NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	7.8	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Evangelical Christians of all ages	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you."	The bestselling translation, widely accepted by evangelical Christians. Purpose in translation was to "produce an accurate translation, suitable for public and private reading, teaching, preaching, memorizing, and liturgical use." Published in 1978. Most read. Most trusted.
NiRV New International Reader's Version	2.9	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought, with an emphasis on meaning when necessary for simplification	Children ages 10 and under	"But I won't brag more than I should. Instead, I will brag only about what I have done in the area God has given me. It is an area that reaches all the way to you."	A thorough, scholarly simplification of the NIV, the NiRV was specifically designed to help young children and new readers understand the Bible for themselves and create an easy stepping-stone from a children's Bible to an adult Bible. Published in 1994. Updated in 1998. The NIV for kids!
NKJV New King James Version	8	Authors used the original KJV as a benchmark, while working to produce an accurate and modern word-for-word translation	Those who want a readable translation of the Bible that is great for study but maintains the poetry of the KJV	"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you."	A modern language update of the original KJV. Purpose was to update and modernize the original KJV but preserve the KJV as much as possible. Published in 1982.
NLT New Living Translation	6.3	Balance between word-for-word translation and thought-for-thought	Adults and children	"But we will not boast of authority we do not have. Our goal is to stay within the boundaries of God's plan for us, and this plan includes our working there with you."	Based on the work of 90 Bible scholars and a smaller team of English stylists. These scholars and stylists went back to the original languages and sought to produce the closest natural equivalent of the message in natural, contemporary English. Published in 1996.
NRSV New Revised Standard Version	8.1-10.4	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Mainline and interconfessional	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will keep within the field that God has assigned to us, to reach out even as far as you."	A widely accepted translation in the tradition of the King James Version. Purpose was to make a good one better." Published in 1990. A Bible for all Christians.
TNIV TODAY'S NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION	n.a.	Balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought	Today's generation of Bible readers looking for readability without sacrificing accuracy	"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God himself has assigned to us, a sphere that also includes you."	Remaining faithful to the original texts while using up-to-date language of today's world, the TNIV is a highly readable and highly accurate translation. Complete Bible published in 2005. Timeless truth. Today's language.

19

15 Most Popular Bible Translations...by Reading Level

Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade
3	4-5	5	6	7	7-8	10	11	12
NiRV New International Reader's Version	MSG The Message	GW God's Word Translation	NLT New Living Translation	NKJV New King James Version	NIV New International Version	ESV English Standard Version	NASB New American Standard Bible	RSV Revised Standard Version
NCV New Century Version				CSB Christian Standard Bible			NRSV New Revised Standard Version	KJV King James Version
				CEB Common English Bible				

KeithFerrin.com

20

Rankings as of January 2020

(numbers in parentheses are
2011 rankings)

1. New International Version (NIV) (1)
2. King James Version (KJV) (2)
3. New Living Translation (NLT) (4)
4. English Standard Version (ESV) (5)
5. New King James Version (NKJV) (3)
6. Christian Standard Bible (CSB) (6)
7. Reina Valera (RV) (not ranked)
8. New International Reader's Version (NIRV) (9)
9. The Message (Message) (8)
10. New American Standard Bible (NASB) (7)

21

Problem Verse:

Psalm 51:5

- Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me. – HCSB
 - Also: NIV, NLT, NRSV, NET
- Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. – NKJV
 - Also: KJV, ESV, ASV, NASB, RSV

22

Problem
Verse:

Isaiah 7:14

- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el. - RSV
 - Also: NRSV, BBE, ERV, GNB, NET
- Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. - NKJV
 - Also: KJV, ASV, NASB, ESV, NIV, HCSB

23

John 3:16

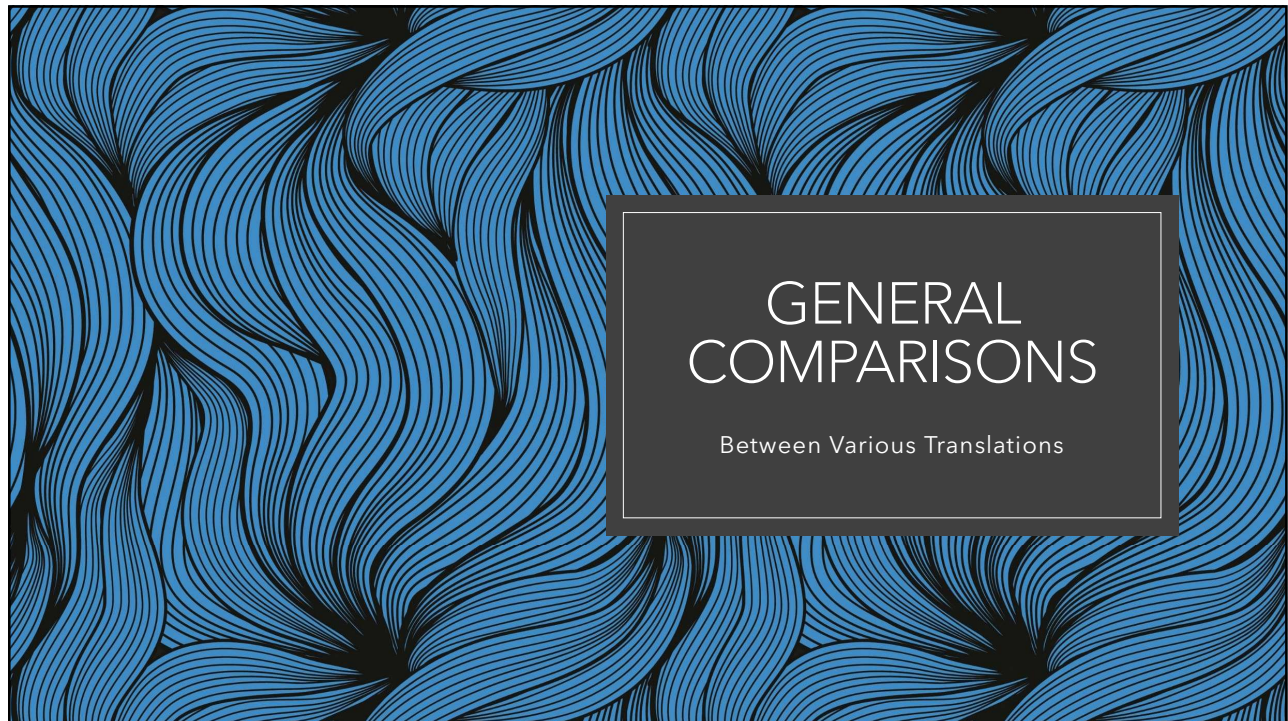
- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. - ESV
 - Also: RSV, NRSV, BBE, CEV, GNB
- For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. - HCSB
 - Also: NIV, NLT, NET
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. - NKJV
 - Also: KJV, ASV, NASB

24

Matthew 19:9

- And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for **fornication**, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. (KJV)
- “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for **sexual immorality**,^[4] and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.” (NKJV)
- “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for **immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery.” (NASB)
- I say that if your wife has not committed some **terrible sexual sin**, you must not divorce her to marry someone else. If you do, you are unfaithful.” (CEV)

25



26