

## **Seven Guidelines for Interpreting Scripture in Times of Controversy\***

Adopted by the northern and southern Presbyterian churches in 1983, and published by the reunited (PCUSA) in 1992.

1. Recognize that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, is the center of Scripture. The redemptive activity of God is central to the entire Scripture.
2. Let the focus be on the plain text of Scripture, to the grammatical and historical context, rather than to allegory or subjective fantasy.
3. Depend on the guidance of the Holy Spirit in interpreting and applying God's message.
4. Be guided by the doctrinal consensus of the church, which is the rule of faith
5. Let all interpretations be in accord with the rule of love, the two-fold commandment to love God and to love our neighbor.
6. Remember that interpretation of the Bible requires earnest study in order to establish the best text and to interpret the influence of the historical and cultural context in which the divine message has come.
7. Seek to interpret a particular passage of the Bible in light of all the Bible.

\*Jack Rogers, *Jesus, the Bible, and Homosexuality: Explode the Myths, Heal the Church*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2009.