

Inductive Bible Study Techniques

The Protege School of Leadership

Biblical Studies

Connectives

Each connective reveals the nature of the relationship between the ideas it links together.

Comparison: Shows the ideas to be alike, similar, or of equal weight in the writers thinking.

- Connectors:
 - ***Like, As, Also, Too, sometimes And.***
- Examples:
 - Ps. 1:3 “And he shall be **LIKE** a tree...”
 - The Psalmist is comparing the man who doesn’t walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but delights in God’s Word day and night, as a *tree*. Then he begins to describe aspects of that tree.
 - 1 Peter 2:2 “**AS** newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”
 - Peter is comparing a newborn babes craving for milk to how we should crave the Word of God. This speaks to our attitude toward and appetite for God’s Word.

Contrast: Means two elements are not alike, possibly opposites.

- Connectors:
 - ***But, Nevertheless, Even though, Much more, Yet, Although.***
- Examples:
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; **BUT** be thou an example of the believers...”
 - Paul told Timothy to be an example in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Living this kind of life would be an example for others to follow rather than an opportunity to despise him.
 - Ephesians 4:29 “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of thy mouth, **BUT** that which is good to the use of edifying...”
 - Here Paul contrasts corrupt communication with good communication. Corrupt Communication tears down, but good communication edifies...builds up. Though it does not specifically say corrupt communication tears down, we draw that forth from the term of contrast “but.” The text does say communication that is “good” builds people up. Since it is contrasted with corrupt communication, then corrupt communication must tear people down.

Conditional Statements: Reveal a relationship in which a particular condition is said to lead to a predictable result.

- Connectors:
 - **“If...Then”** Pattern (Sometimes the passage may not have the word “then” as in John 15:7 “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.” Though the word “then” is not used, we still see the condition.)
- Examples:
 - John 8:31-32: “...**IF** ye continue in my word, **THEN** are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - The Amplified Bible renders this verse “If you abide in my word [hold fast to my teaching and live in accordance with them] you are truly my disciples.
 - Notice the connection between Disciple and Discipline. Jesus is saying, “Your persistent loyalty to the truth I have taught will prove the reality of your present profession.” Evangelicals put great weight on professions of faith, and rightly so. But equally as significant is adherence to the faith. Continuance in the teaching of Christ is the acid test of genuine, regenerating faith.

Correlative Structure: Shows two elements to be related to each other reciprocally.

- Connectors:
 - **“Both...And”**
 - **“As...So Also”**
 - **“So...As”**
 - **“For...As”**
- Example:
 - Ephesians 5:24 “But **AS** the church is subject to Christ **SO ALSO** the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.”
 - In writing about submission, Paul is not talking about dominance of gender but about corporate relationship and structure within a family. He likens this submission to the submission of the church to Christ. A husband who “loves his wife as Christ loves the church and gave himself for it” will generally not have a problem with a woman submitting to his leadership.

Connectives of Reason: Point to arguments which show that one element is the reason behind another.

- Connectives:
 - **Because, Therefore, Wherefore, For this Reason, For this Cause, For, Since**
- Example:
 - Genesis 22:15-18 “And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **BECAUSE** you have obeyed my voice.”

- Abraham's extraordinary act of faith prompted God to do something that He had never before done...swear an oath by *his own* name. The God who tests is also the God who provides--the Tester is the Provider. God always has provided. He provides for every believer. So when we are called to give our "*Isaacs*"--those things that are most precious to us--we need to understand when we do it that God is Jehovah Jireh--God provides.
- Philippians 2:9 "**WHEREFORE** God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name."
 - Notice, this verse follows verses 1-8...the self-humbling of Christ. He humbled Himself, and as a result of that God hath highly exalted Him. This is showing one element as the reason behind another.
- Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: **FOR** we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."
 - The *infirmity* or weakness mentioned here is sometimes not knowing how to pray as we ought (prayer burden, etc...), but the Holy Spirit knows how to pray and will if we allow him to pray through us. This is showing one element as the reason behind another.

Purpose Statements: These may also indicate result.

- Connectives:
 - ***That, So That, In Order That***
- Examples:
 - Ephesians 1:18 "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened **THAT** ye may know what is the hope of his calling..."
 - To make the passage more clear to me, I will often put a "so" in front of "that."
 - "So that."
 - Illumination needs to come to us **so that** we can know the hope of our calling, the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, etc...

Sequence of Time Connectors: Help you note the order of events.

- Connectors:
 - ***Now, Until, When, After, Before, Since, While***
- Example:
 - 1 Corinthians 13:10 "But **WHEN** that which is perfect is come, **THEN** that which is in part shall be done away."
 - vs. 12 "For **NOW** we see through a glass, darkly; but **THEN** face to face: **NOW** I know in part; but **THEN** shall I know even as also I am known."
 - Verse 8 tells us "tongues shall cease." Verse 10 tells us when they will cease... "when that which is *perfect* (Grk. teleios...complete, of full age) is come." This is not referring to the completion of the New Testament, as some contend, but the completion of all things ushered in by the return of Christ.