

Seven Common Sense Reasons Why I Use the KJV: *Instead of the NIV, NASB, or the Newly Popular ESV Perversions*

**Note: As of 2009 there were changes in the NIV that I do not have included in this study. The copy of the NIV that I have reviewed predates the changes.*

Introduction:

- It is significant to realize that the word of God is still here today, despite the many perversions that have been published (**Psalms 118:89**, **Mark 13:31**, and **I Peter 1:22-25**).
- Having those who would corrupt God's word is not new (**II Corinthians 2:17; 4:3-4**).
- You do not need years of study in Greek to see New Testament translation errors as there is simplicity in Christ (**II Corinthians 11:3**).
- We must be prepared to answer the version questions just as any others (**Philippians 1:17**, **I Peter 3:15**, and **Jude 3**).
- This study will be a small sample of the errors in these perversions.

1. The prefaces tells the story:

- NIV: "The first concern of the translators has been the accuracy of the translation and its faithfulness to the meaning of the biblical writers. This has moved the translators to strive for more than a word-for-word rendering of the original texts."
- NASB: "In the history of English Bible translations, the King James Version is the most prestigious. This time-honored version of 1611, itself a revision of the Bishops' Bible of 1568, became the basis for the English Revised Version appearing in 1881 (New Testament) and 1885 (Old Testament). The American counterpart of this last work was published in 1901 as the American Standard Version. The ASV, a product of both British and American scholarship, has been highly regarded for its scholarship and accuracy. Recognizing the values of the American Standard Version, the Lockman Foundation felt an urgency to preserve these and other lasting values of the ASV by incorporating recent discoveries of Hebrew and Greek textual sources and by rendering it into more current English. Therefore, in 1959 a new translation project was launched, based on the time-honored principles of translation of the ASV and KJV. The result is the New American Standard Bible."
- ESV: "Every translation is at many points a trade-off between literal precision and readability, between "formal equivalence" in expression and "functional equivalence" in communication, and the ESV is no exception. Within this framework we have sought to be "as literal as possible" while maintaining clarity of expression and literary excellence. Therefore, to the extent that plain English permits and the meaning in each case allows, we have sought to use the same English word for important recurring words in the original; and, as far as grammar and syntax allow, we have rendered Old Testament passages cited in the New in ways that show their correspondence. Thus in each of these areas, as well as throughout the Bible as a whole, we have sought to capture the echoes and overtones of meaning that are so abundantly present in the original texts.

As an essentially literal translation, then, the ESV seeks to carry over every possible nuance of meaning in the original words of Scripture into our own language. As such, it

is ideally suited for in-depth study of the Bible. Indeed, **with its emphasis on literary excellence**, the ESV is equally suited for public reading and preaching, for private reading and reflection, for both academic and devotional study, and for Scripture memorization.”

2. The attack on the Deity of Christ infuriates me (Romans 9:5):

- Philippians 2:6
 - (KJV) “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:”
 - (NIV) “Who, being in very nature God, **did not consider equality with God something to be grasped.**”
 - (NASB) “who, although He existed in the form of God, **did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped.**”
 - (ESV) “who, though he was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.**”
- I Timothy 3:16
 - (KJV) “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God** [“theos” Strong’s # 2316] was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
 - (NIV) “Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: **He** appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”
 - (NASB) “And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: **He** who was revealed in the flesh,”
 - (ESV) “Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: **He** [1] was manifested in the flesh, vindicated [2] by the Spirit, [3] seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory. [footnotes: [1] 3:16 Greek Who; **some manuscripts God**; others Which; [2] 3:16 Or justified; [3] 3:16 Or vindicated in spirit.”
- I John 5:7
 - (KJV) “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”
 - (NIV) “For there are three that testify:”
 - (NASB) “And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is the truth.”
 - (ESV) “For there are three that testify:”
- Why would these perversions not want Jesus worshipped (**Matthew 4:10, Acts 10:25-26** [this verse shows bowing, falling at feet, and worship are different too (ESV & NASB translate it right here!?!?), and **Revelation 22:8-9**). In all cases below, it is the Greek word “proskuneō”.
 - Matthew 8:1-2
 - (KJV) “When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and **worshipped him**, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.”
 - (NIV) “When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. A man with leprosy came and **knelt before him** and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

- (NASB) “And when He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came to Him, and **bowed down to Him**, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”
- (ESV) “When he came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And behold, a leper came to him and **knelt before him**, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”
- Matthew 9:18
 - (KJV) “While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and **worshipped him**, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.”
 - (NIV) “While he was saying this, a ruler came and **knelt** before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.”
 - (NASB) “While He was saying these things to them, behold, there came a synagogues official, and **bowed down** before Him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.”
 - (ESV) “While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and **knelt before him**, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”
- Matthew 15:25
 - (KJV) “Then came she and **worshipped** him, saying, Lord, help me.”
 - (NIV) “The woman came and **knelt before him**. "Lord, help me!" she said.
 - (NASB) “But she came and began to **bow down before Him**, saying, "Lord, help me!"
 - (ESV) “But she came and **knelt before him**, saying, “Lord, help me.”
- Matthew 20:20
 - (KJV) “Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, **worshipping him**, and desiring a certain thing of him.”
 - (NIV) “Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, **kneeling down**, asked a favor of him.”
 - (NASB) “Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, **bowing down**, and making a request of Him.”
 - (ESV) “Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and **kneeling before him** she asked him for something.”
- Mark 5:6
 - (KJV) “But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and **worshipped him**,”
 - (NIV) “When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and **fell on his knees** in front of him.”
 - (NASB) “And seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and **bowed down before Him**,”
 - (ESV) “And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and **fell down before him**.”

3. The missing and footnoted passages keep me from these perversions while keeping the numbering system in place (Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:5-6, Jeremiah 30:1-2; 36:1-2, and Revelation 22:18-19):

- Matthew 17:21 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV)
- Matthew 18:11 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Matthew 23:14 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Mark 7:16 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Mark 9:44; 46 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Mark 11:26 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Mark 15:28 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Mark 16:9-20 (footnoted in all three with the statement that some Greek manuscripts do not include it).
- Luke 17:36 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Luke 23:17 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- John 5:4 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Acts 8:37 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Acts 15:34 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Acts 24:7 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Acts 28:29 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).
- Romans 16:24 (gone from NIV, footnoted in NASB and ESV).

4. I will not use these new perversions because they broaden terms for lawful putting away:

- Matthew 5:31-32
 - (KJV) “It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of **fornication** [porneia: “illicit sexual intercourse”}, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”
 - (NIV) “It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for **marital unfaithfulness**, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.”
 - (NASB) “And it was said, ‘Whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce’; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of **unchastity** [chaste: “clean; pure; modest” **Titus 2:5; I Peter 3:2**], makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.
 - (ESV) “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of **sexual immorality**, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.” **NKJV does this too!!**
- Matthew 19:9
 - (KJV) “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 (this last part is missing from the next three perversions – B.A.Y.).”
 - (NIV) “I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for **marital unfaithfulness**, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

- (NASB) “And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for **immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery”
- (ESV) “And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for **sexual immorality**, and marries another, commits adultery”

5. I will not use these new perversions because they are self contradictions (note one example):

- Matthew 5:17 then Ephesians 2:15 (NIV)
 - “**Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them”
 - “**by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations**. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,”
- Matthew 5:17 then Ephesians 2:15 (NASB)
 - “**Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets**; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill”
 - “**by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances**, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,”
- Matthew 5:17 then Ephesians 2:15 (ESV)
 - “**Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
 - “**by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances**, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,”

6. I will not use these new perversions because they put you into Christ at confession (Galatians 3:27 and Acts 2:38-41; cf. Matthew 8:28-29 and Luke 4:41):

- Romans 10:10
 - (KJV) “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
 - (NIV) “For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and **it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**”
 - (NASB) “for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and **with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.**”
 - (ESV) “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and **with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**”

7. The NIV above the two others under consideration on the subject of sinful nature, grossly perverts the truth (Genesis 1:31, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Ezekiel 18:20; 28:15, Matthew 18:3, James 4:17, and I John 3:4):

- Romans 7:5 “For when we were controlled by the **sinful nature**, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.”
- Romans 8:3-5; 8 “For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the **sinful nature**, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the **sinful nature** but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the sinful nature have

their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires... [8] Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”

- Galatians 5:16 “Those **controlled by the sinful nature** cannot please God.”
- Ephesians 2:3 “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our **sinful nature** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”

The ESV hints to it:

- Romans 7:5 “For while we were living in the flesh, our **sinful passions**, **aroused by the law**, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.”
- Ephesians 2:3 “among whom we all once lived in the **passions of our flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, **like the rest of mankind**.”

Conclusion:

- Let’s preserve that which these perversions have tried to burn (**Jeremiah 36:27-28**).
- Let’s make sure we are teaching all of the words of God’s law (**Joshua 8:30-35**).
- Realize that easy to read means something has changed. The Scriptures are meant to be studied (**John 5:39**, **Acts 17:10-11**, and **II Timothy 2:15**).