



Theological Maps

Intro

I'm a map person

On vacation

Google earth

I don't memorize the details

Rather, I look for the big features, and how it all fits together

Then you can find your way, even if you get lost

The big picture of the Word should function as a map to us.

Psalm 119:105 – Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

Luke 24:27 - And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Often others ask us – “What do you think?”

What you think is not enough

We are to be washed by the Word, not by spit from someone else's mouth!

“I think,” is not enough (like mom cleaning your face with spit on her thumb)

Four steps to creating a theological map

1. Define the problem or issue
2. Gather all the passages or verses that relate to this question
3. Organize them into categories, themes, principles
4. Apply the results back to your specific situation or setting

1) Define the problem or issue

- a. Start by describing a specific situation where the answer to this question is needed. It may be that you are facing this situation right now, or have faced it in the past.
- b. Write down a list of the questions you have. This will help you gather the right data, and spot the principles that you will need to gather.

2) Gather the passages and verses

- c. Use a concordance to look under key words
- d. Check cross references for parallel passages
- e. Think about stories or situations in the Bible that relate to your question
- f. Look at a topical Bible for other ideas
- g. Gather references from others who have written on this issue
- h. Paste all of these passages into a Word file, making sure you have enough context to properly interpret the passage or verse.

3) Organize

- a. Read through all the passages and look for patterns
 - i. What are the things that are repeated (and thus more important)
 - ii. What are main thoughts
 - iii. What are subcategories of these main areas
 - iv. How does it all fit together
 - v. Begin to move things around in your file, creating headings and groups of passages that fit together.
 - vi. Try to summarize your findings into an outline or list that reflects the basic organizational structure of the Bible's "Big picture" on this subject.
 - vii. Check it to make sure that you are not missing something important, or distorting the view as you try to create the big picture

4) Apply

- a. Now go back to your original questions and situation. Draw conclusions and application from what you have discovered and apply them back to your original question.
- b. Try to make your application memorable and not too complicated. Ideally, you should be able to hold it all clearly in your head, so that you can use it at any time without referring back to your notes.
- c. Make sure you clearly define the steps of obedience, if there are any.
- d. Apply the results to your life as soon as possible, and don't hesitate to encourage others to do the same.



Example:

1. Define

Marta is 28 years old and working full time as a doctor. She grew up in a Christian home – her parents are well known for their Godly and effective service. She loves them and respects them, but is experiencing consistent tension at home. She still lives with them, and feels she would hurt them if she moved away. But they often don't have the same view on things. They feel she is under her father's authority until she is married, and must obey them.

Recent issue – she is going to a charismatic church, they are Baptists and don't agree that she should be there. She wanted to go to a retreat and they forbid her. She thought and prayed about it and said that this is what she felt God wanted her to do. They were very upset and tried to forbid her. Her mom said that she would pray that the time there would be horrible so that she would know that God was not pleased with her.

"My parents are old and out of date. This is embarrassing to me."

"What should I do?"

Questions:

1. Is an adult single woman still under the authority of her father and mother
2. Does this mean that she must obey them?
3. Does it make any difference if she lives at home?
4. Does this apply the same for a guy?
5. How should she respond?
6. What does it mean to honor?
7. If she is to submit, what does submission look like?
8. How can she do what is right and maintain a strong relationship?

2. Gather

Genesis 2:24 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh

Exodus 20:12 2 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 5:16 16 "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother



and will not listen to them when they discipline him, 19 his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. 20 They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard." 21 Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

1 Samuel 17:12-20 12 Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years. 13 Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. 14 David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, 15 but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem. 16 For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand. 17 Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. 18 Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. 19 They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines." 20 Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry.

Proverbs 6:20-23 0 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. 22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. 23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,

Proverbs 15:20 20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

Proverbs 23:22-25 22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding. 24 The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. 25 May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!

Matthew 19:16-21 6 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" 17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments." 18 "Which ones?" the man inquired. Jesus replied, "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" 20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" 21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."



Luke 2:48-52 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." 49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them. 51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 14:26 26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-- yes, even his own life-- he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 22:41-42 41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

John 2:1-5 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." 4 "Dear woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come." 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

John 5:22-23 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

Acts 4:16-20 16 "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everybody living in Jerusalem knows they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it. 17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

1 Corinthians 7:33-34 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world-- how he can please his wife-- 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world-- how she can please her husband.

1 Corinthians 13:11 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.



Ephesians 5:23-24 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 6:1-4 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother”-- which is the first commandment with a promise-- 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20-21 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Key Words

Teknon – child of either sex – 100 times

Gal 4:19 – My children

I Tim 1:2 – timothy, my true Child in the faith

Nepios – infant (I Cor 13:11)

Obey – Hupakouo, to listen, attend to (greek)

OT – obey = Shama – to hear (Deut)

OT – Honor – Kabad, weighty, heavy (Honor your father and mother)

NT – Honor – tima, to fix the value, to price

Organize

Key principles:

1. Obedience

- a. A child is responsible to both obey and honor – Eph 6:1-3, Col 3:20
- b. Disobedience and rebellion is a serious issue that threatens the health of the entire community. - Deut 21:18-21
- c. A married man and woman are outside of the authority structure of their parents – they don't have to submit to them. The man submits to Christ, the woman to the man. - Eph 5:23-24
- d. Jesus was single, but clearly did not obey his mother. – John 2:1-5
- e. Obedience exceptions - There are times when God's commands will set us at odds with our parents. – Luke 14:26, Acts 4:16-20
- f. Obedience extensions - When someone is part of a household, it seems they come under the authority of the head of that household. – I Sam 17:12-21



- g. It is possible to clearly express your opinion, be in the right, and still submit to your parent's authority.
- Luke 2:48-52
- h. It is possible to make clear requests, state what you desire, and still submit to your parent's authority. –
- Luke 22:41-42

2. Honor

- a. Children must honor their parents for their entire life, and this is the only command with the promise of long life. – Deut 5:16

3. Parental guidance

- a. A wise daughter listens to her father and does not despise her mother. – Prov 6:20-23
- b. Your parent's guidance and protection can bless you and direct you for many years - Prov 23:22-23
- c. When a child listens to his parents it gives them great joy. – Prov 23:24-25

4. Parental responsibilities

- a. Fathers should not provoke their children to anger or bitterness – Eph 6:4, Col 3:21

4. Apply

1. Recognize that you are in a grey zone where it is not totally clear
2. The fact that you are still in their home means that you still come under their authority to some degree.
You could move out and stand more clearly on your own as an adult.
3. You can express opinion and make requests, even from a position of submission
4. In all things you should treat them with respect and great value (honor)
5. Listen carefully to what they are saying and try to understand what is behind it. It is probably quite valuable, even if you do not follow their advice. Your careful listening and work to understand will bring them great joy.
6. If you clearly sense God's leading in an area, or if their instructions do not match up with God's Word, you are responsible to follow and submit to God rather than them. Don't misuse this, and flippantly tell them that God told you something when he really didn't.
7. If your father is provoking you to anger or bitterness, make sure you talk to him about it and help him understand why that is happening. He is responsible before God not to do this, and may not be aware of how his behavior affects you.

Final Thoughts

- You can use this in your personal quiet time, or personal growth
- You can use this to prepare topical teaching
- You can use this to answer difficult questions, or research in an area where you are disoriented
- You can use this to challenge your current convictions and see if they reflect the Word of God

