

# Choosing My Translation



# Forming Groups

- Get yourself into groups of 4
  - These will be your discussion groups for the next several weeks.



# From Greek to English

- In groups
  - What tendencies can you detect in each translation?
  - What differences can you see in the approaches they take?



# From Greek to English

- Kinds of translations
  - Lexical equivalent (word for word)
  - Dynamic equivalent (thought for thought)
  - A spectrum, not a sharp divide



# From Greek to English

- Kinds of translations
- Which is most “literal”?
  - *pomme rouge* (French)
    - “apple red” or “red apple”?
  - *des fruits de mer* (French)
    - “some fruits of the sea” or “seafood”?
  - *Die Religionsgeschichtliche Schule* (German)
    - “*historyofreligionschool*”?
    - “*the religion’s history school*”?

# From Greek to English

- Kinds of translations
- Which is most “literal”?
- The limits of translation
  - Paul: ἀγαπήτοι ἀδελφοί
    - “beloved brothers”?
    - “dear brothers and sisters”?
  - No choice conveys all of the meaning

# From Greek to English

- The purposes of translation
  - Not . . .
    - to replace the Greek text
    - to be read alone
  - Give as good a sense as possible . . .
    - of the writer's thought
    - the writer's sentence structure?
  - In the context of . . .
    - close study
    - public reading
    - *lectio divina*

# From Greek to English

- The purposes of translation
- So the best translation is . . .
  - Three different ones together!
- My picks
  - NIV, NRSV, and NJB
  - All dynamic equivalent
  - Covers the denominational and theological spectrum

# Discussion Groups

- Why did these books make it into the New Testament?
- Why do we say these books are “God’s word”?

# Canon

- Based on respect for *people* as “yardsticks”
- Broad agreement grew organically on most books
  - Fringe cases do not change basic doctrine
- Councils largely just formalized existing consensus
  - Dissenting groups never large, never agreed
- Clear why the consensus was so broad
  - If you want the faith of the apostolic circle

# Word of God

- Inspiration is not dictation
  - God's message in purely human texts
  - Tells us “that” not “how”
  - God used (primarily) ordinary human processes
- Jesus is God's Word in the primary sense
- These texts convey Jesus
- By the Spirit?

# Word of God

- Inspiration is not dictation
- Jesus is God's Word in the primary sense
- These texts convey Jesus
  - Transmit the apostolic faith
  - Assuming that God was able to communicate to the first generation who heard Jesus
  - Their human reaction (interpretation) was part of God's plan
- By the Spirit?