

CONTEXT

How Important Could it Be?

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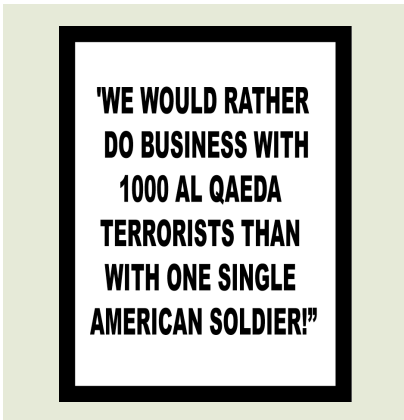
Context is...

'the circumstances that form the setting for an event, statement, or idea, and in terms of which it can be fully understood and assessed.'

In words that I can understand, context is the "environment" in which a word or phrase "sits" or is found.

Context Can Make All the Difference.....

A sign in an Indiana Storefront Window...



The question we need to ask ourselves is, "What in the world kind of business in America would have the audacity to put up such a sign?"

Well, a **FUNERAL HOME** of course!!!!
AH, NOW IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE!



Why does it make sense? Because now you know the context of that inflammatory statement,

now you know what "storefront" this sign was posted in. Clearly, **CONTEXT can make ALL the difference!**

Context can change your re-actions.....

A very good friend of mine sent this "storefront sign" as an email to me and I can't tell you how mad I was at first. Mad at the one who would put something so "insane" in the front window of their business....in AMERICA, and secondly, surprisingly, I was mad at my very good friend for sending it to me. (this is all before I got to the "rest of the story") I was thinking, "has she lost her mind!?" I was ready to give someone a piece of *my* mind or go to Indiana to see this for myself, (not really:). My reactions were based on a few pieces of "knowledge" but I didn't have the full picture. As soon as I did

have the full context of the statement I was relieved to the point that I actually let out a physical "sigh of relief." Once I knew the truth, I was no longer angry with anyone...so, how important is knowing the whole context of a word or story? It can flat out change our re-actions, and save us from doing or believing something crazy:)

Context is king.....

Especially in Scriptures, the Holy Bible. We have CULTS in this country that have been born out of "partial truth" taken (out of context) right from the Bible! Divisions and denominations have also been birthed out of this kind of "contextual disregard." *We have to respect the context or we could easily be deceived.* I think most would agree that in order for a "deception" or "lie" to be believed, there must be at least an "element" of truth in it. **Deception's foundation blocks could consist of "partial truths" and "truth taken out of context."**

Partial truth is pretty easy to identify **IF** you know the *whole TRUTH*. Partial truth is the kind of thing that feeds and fuels the sin of **gossip & slander, and False Teaching**. To combat this "partial" or "half truth" is to go directly to the person who is the "subject" of the gossip (or slander) and to ask them straight up if these things are true. It's pretty easy to start gossip/slander (with lies and partial truths) and actually, it's pretty easy to stop them too. (with the truth) Truth stops gossip or slander dead in it's tracks. Let's remember that Jesus said He is "the **WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE**.... The devil, on the other hand is a liar and the **FATHER OF LIES!** In addition to 'partial truth,' **False Teaching** is also propagated by taking the Truth / Word of God 'out of context....'



Taking the Truth out of context is yet another very cunning way the devil deceives people. This is the scheme the devil *tried* on Jesus in the wilderness. In Matthew chapter 4, Jesus in led away (by the Spirit) into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Matt. 4:2) Our example of the "truth

taken out of context" is found in the second incident with the devil. (PLEASE LOOK THESE VERSES UP IN CONTEXT so that you can see if what I am saying is true; Check everything out!!!) Matthew 4:5 Then the devil took Him (Jesus) into the holy city; and he (the devil) had Him (Jesus) stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him (Jesus), "IF You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, 'He will give His angels charge concerning you;' and 'On their hands they (angels) will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" [please note that the devil was using the WORD OF GOD from Psalm 91:11-12] now verse 7) Jesus said to him (the devil), "again, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Jesus used the **WORD OF GOD IN CONTEXT** by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16, in fact, every time Jesus said, "it is written" in the three instances with the devil, He was quoting Deuteronomy (chapters 8, 6, & 10) You see, it's not enough to USE the Word of God, the devil did that too, but we must be able to discern the Word of God in the Context of the situation at hand...without compromising the integrity of the Scripture. 'study to show ourselves approved to God.... rightly dividing the word of truth' or 'handling accurately the word of truth' (2 Tim. 2:15)

How important could CONTEXT be?

Well, it could be the difference between understanding and **misunderstanding** a situation, it could make all the difference as to how we re-act in any given circumstance; context could actually save us from reacting in a negative and even harmful way! How important is context with regard to Scripture? Well, context is king. Context is so important when it comes to the WORD of GOD that whole denominations, and countless divisions have taken root as a result of a (sometimes blatant) disregard for the 'environment' the 'text' is in.....CONTEXT.

So, the next time you get an email, or listen to a teaching, or watch the news, make sure you pay close attention to the context of the circumstance, or the scripture because it could make a world of difference. **Turns out context is pretty important after all :) Peace In, Big D:**