# Making Biblical Resources Available

How Should We Study the Bible?

Making Biblical Resources Available 1

## Character of Bible

- Variety of literature that makes up the Bible
  - Not all that is valuable to ethics is issue oriented or prescriptive, e.g., story of Jacob
- Form and Context of Biblical passages are as important as content
  - E.g., social setting of liberation for poor
- Bible does not separate doing from being (decision from character)

Character of Bible 2

## B & R's Approach to Exegesis

166-171

- Examine the text
  - Use multiple translations
- Examine literary style and organization
- Explore questions about historical context
  - History pointed to in the text, and history that gave rise to text
- Explore theological questions about text
- Relate text to its broader canonical context
- KEY POINT: ethical application of Bible is *dialogic*--our concerns in dialog with Bible's concerns

B & R's Approach to Exegesis 3

## Closing Recommendations

- Christian ethics is intimately bound up with the church's worship, preaching, and education, not just with it's involvement with social issues
  - "the gathered life of the church is as fundamentally ethical in nature as the scattered life of the church"