



SBL FORMAT FOR WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. Overview

Beginning in the fall 2012, the Graduate Ministry Program adopted the *SBL Handbook of Style* for paper citations. You can get a copy of the template from the course “doc sharing,” from the instructor, or your Academic Coach. It is recommended that students unfamiliar with citations follow Author-Date Style (Toney 2008, 142) – see examples below, however, advanced users may use Footnotes¹ - see examples in Graduate Student Handbook. Endnotes should never be used. Students may need to purchase a personal copy of the *SBL Handbook of Style*. Some online resources include the following:

Alexander, Patrick H. et al., eds. 1999. *The SBL Handbook of Style*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.
Short style sheet (Jn. Brown U.): <http://www.jbu.edu/assets/library/resource/file/SBLQuickReference.pdf>
Student Supplement: http://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/sblhs_ss92804_revised_ed.pdf

Be sure to cite your readings in ALL written assignments (including weekly papers). A good research paper usually cites at least 3-4 scholarly resources per page. Final papers must use the minimum number of scholarly resources listed using tools such as ATLA for finding academic journals as well as either libraries or purchasing books. Popular websites such as Wikipedia, general Biblical/theological sites such as BibleGateway.com, and older public domain material are not permitted (e.g., Matthew-Henry Commentaries).

2. Citing the Bible

For all papers, projects, threaded discussions, etc., students should cite the Bible according to the following guidelines. Names of the books of the Bible cited *without* chapter or chapter and verse should be spelled out in the main text. Books of the Bible cited with chapter or chapter and verse should be abbreviated (never spelled out!), unless they come at the beginning of the sentence. All occurrences of biblical books in parentheses and footnotes should be abbreviated. Authors citing more than one translation of the Bible must indicate which translation is used in a particular citation (When this citation is in parentheses, a comma is not needed to separate the citation and the abbreviation of the translation, as is indicated in the fourth example below).

Correct

The passage in 1 Cor 5 is often considered crucial.
The passage, 1 Cor 5:6, is often considered crucial.
First Corinthians 5:6 is a crucial text.
“Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough?” (1 Cor 5:6).

Incorrect

In First Corinthians chapter five verse six, Paul writes a crucial text.
In 1 Corinthians 5:6, Paul writes a crucial text.

¹ Carl N. Toney, *Paul's Inclusive Ethic: Resolving Community Conflicts and Promoting Mission in Romans 14-15* (WUNT 2/252, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008), 25.

3. Author-Date Style

3.1 All assignments should adhere to the following format:

- 1 page = 250 words
- Times New Roman 12 point font (or Calibri 12 point font)
- Double-spaced
- 1-inch margins
- Quotations over 3 lines long should be single-spaced and indented

3.2 Final papers should include a Cover Page with at least the following information:

- Student's Name
- Hope International University
- Paper Title/Assignment
- Course Name
- Instructor
- Date

3.3 Author-Date Citations go at the end of a sentence, right before the final punctuation and should include: the author/editor's last name, year of publication, page number (note: no comma between author's name and year of publication). *A more extensive list along with explanations can be found in the SBL Handbook of Style in section 7.4.*

Sample single work citations

A groundbreaking treatment can be found in Minear 1971 (1–23).

Paul seeks to unify two groups (Marcus 1989, 67–81).

Tobin (2004, 58, 64, 76) draws attention to the issue.

“The apostle Paul is the acknowledged author of 2 Corinthians” (Martin and Toney 2009, 267).

Two citations in the same sentence

An agrarian society is built upon agricultural production (Lenski and Lenski 1974, 207; Lenski 1966, 192).

An author with two works in the same year - add “a” and “b” (oldest to most recent):

Paul wrote Romans from Corinth (Karris 1991a, 44).

Paul is writing about a hypothetical situation (Karris 1991b, 84).

3.4 A Bibliography should be included at the end of every essay that cited sources.

- **Format**
 - Use 12 point font, single spaced with one space between entries
 - Have second lines indented
 - Only be made for works actually cited in the essay
 - Alphabetically arranged by last name; use -----. Instead of the author's name for multiple works by same author (oldest to most recent)
 - **Samples**
 - **Books**

Author/editor (last name, first name). Year. *Title*. Edition. Edited by Editor (first & last name).
Translated by Translator (first & last name). City: Publisher.
- Tobin, Thomas. 2004. *Paul's Rhetoric in Its Contexts: the Argument of Romans*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson.

- **Article in reference work/dictionary (when article author listed)**
Journal author. Year. "Title." Page of Article. Dictionary Title. Editor(s). City: Publisher.
Crossan, John Dominic. 1992. "Parables." Pages 146-52 in vol. 5 of *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*.
Edited by David Noel Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday.
- **Journal articles**
Author. Year. "Title." *Journal Title*. Vol#: Pages of Article.
Aus, Roger. 1979. "Paul's Travel Plans to Spain and the 'Full Number of the Gentiles' of Rom XI 25." *Novum Testamentum* 21:251–52.
- **Web sources:** use only sources that have named authors. Do not use anonymous sources you find online. Web sources may be cited without page numbers, if they're not available.
Author. Year. "Title of Page/Article." *Journal Title*. Vol#: Pages. Date accessed. Web Address.
(Note: include as much of this information as possible; may cite don't have Journal Titles, vol#s or pages – if no page #s, then put "No pages").
Green, Joel B. 2012. "Bible, Theology and Theological Interpretation." *SBL Forum*. No pages. Cited 17 March 2012. Online: www.sbl-site.org/Article.aspx?ArticleId=308

4. Sample Paper

You will find a sample paper on the following pages that uses SBL Style.

HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE MINISTRY PROGRAM

TITLE OF YOUR PAPER

(DOUBLE SPACED)

SUBMITTED TO [NAME OF PROFESSOR]
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE

BY
YOUR NAME
MONTH, DAY, YEAR

INTRODUCTION

Start your paper here. When you start your paper, delete these opening paragraphs and the works that are cited in the Bibliography. Write your paper using 12 point font, double spaced and one inch margins. Use SBL author-date style for citations.

PAUL'S INCLUSIVE ETHIC

In Romans, Paul promotes an inclusive ethic which allows for Jewish and Gentile Christians to worship together in a united community (Jewett 2006, 889–90, 893, 895, 897). While some scholars argue that Paul is writing about a hypothetical situation (Karris 1991b, 65–84), it is more likely that Paul is addressing real problems in the Roman community. Romans 15:8 mentions a division between Jewish Christians, literally the “circumcision” (*περιτομή*) and Gentile Christians in Rome, two groups which Paul seeks to unify (Marcus 1989, 67–81). The groundbreaking work of Minear 1971 (1–23) reminded modern scholarship of the importance of Rom 14–15 as he used these chapters to reinterpret the rest of the letter.

Tobin (2004, 58–76) draws attention to the need to place the issues of Rom 14:1–15:13 in the context of Paul's past controversies in Galatia and Corinth. In Galatians, Paul defends the place of Gentile Christians by presenting a Spirit-guided ethic (Gal 5:16–26), which appears to cut out the place of the Jewish people and the Jewish Law from God's plan of salvation (Gal 4:21–31; Tobin 2004, 74–76). However, in Romans, he defends the freedom of Jews to be Christians as Jews (Campbell 1991, 272–73). The greeting of Rom 16 indicates that Paul wrote Romans from Corinth (Karris 1991a, 44–52). In 1 Corinthians Paul encourages Gentile Christians to adapt to others, who are deemed to be weak, for the sake

of the gospel (Tobin 2004, 76–78). As in 1 Corinthians, Paul in Romans uses a model of adapting to the needs of others in order to further their salvation.

CONCLUSION

This study reminds us of the importance of the freedom of the gospel, and salvation is by faith in Christ alone. Today's church should be reminded to avoid imposing cultural ideals when calling people to be included among the people of God. “[F]aith in Jesus Christ has pluralistic possibilities” (Jewett 1982, 62).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Campbell, William S. 1991. "The Rule of Faith in Rom 12:1–15:13: the Obligation of Humble Obedience to Christ as the Only Adequate Response to the Mercies of God." Pages 259–86 in *Pauline Theology: Romans*. Edited by Elizabeth Johnson and David Hays. Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series 4. Atlanta: Scholars Press.
- Jewett, Robert. 1982. *Christian Tolerance: Paul's Message to the Modern Church*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press.
- 2006. *Romans*. Hermeneia. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- Karris, Robert. 1991a. "A Short Note on Romans 16." Pages 44–52 in *The Romans Debate*. Rev. ed. Edited by Karl Donfried. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson.
- 1991b. "Romans 14:1–15:13 and the Occasion of Romans." Pages 65–84 in *The Romans Debate*. Rev. ed. Edited by Karl Donfried. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson.
- Marcus, Joel. 1989. "The Circumcision and the Uncircumcision in Rome." *New Testament Studies* 35: 67–81.
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