

Rule # 9:

Understand the Nature of
Inference from the Context

Inference Defined

- something that is inferred *especially* : a conclusion or opinion that is formed because of known facts or evidence
- the act or process of inferring (see [INFER](#)): such as
 - a: the act of passing from one proposition, statement, or judgment considered as true to another whose truth is believed to follow from that of the former
 - b: the act of passing from statistical sample data to generalizations (as of the value of population parameters) usually with calculated degrees of certainty
- the [premises](#) and conclusion of a process of inferring

Inference as a means of understanding God's expectations

- Illustration #1
 - An example of baptism, "...and he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38)
 - **Inference** stated, "Baptism involved enough water for two people to "go down into the water".

Inference as a means of understanding God's expectations

- Illustration #2
 - Command stated, “**This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.**” (I Corinthians 11:25)
 - Inference stated, “God’s expectation is that we will participate in remembering more than just once.”
 - Another **inference** stated, “There is importance associated with the **cup** and that importance should be respected and not devalued. The **cup** is not the blood, it is the new testament.”

Inferences must relate to the underlying command/example

- The command to assemble
- Inference is that we need a place
- Characteristics of the inferred place are dictated by the command/example
 - Our auditorium is a place where we could assemble
 - It may or may not be a place that lends itself to sharing
 - it might even be distracting or interfere with the command/example

“Necessary” Inference

- This implies that the inference considered is the only possible inference that can be drawn from the command/example
- It is not always the case
- The command to “assemble together” might not necessitate a single place