

2) Synchronic ("at the same time") - The word's use at roughly the same time as its occurrence - more important than its use 400 years previously

3) Contextual--how does a particular word convey meaning in a particular context. Here we are concerned with the way in which context *limits* the area of meaning of words.

Example: the use of ὀνειπόρευτος in Lk. 15:25 - context shows us that this is the elder son, not a church official

or consider the case of figurative language - context limits and applies the figure  
ie. The use of adulterers in James 4:4 has its metaphor limited by its context

## 2. Grammar and Syntax

- The fundamental principle here is to remind ourselves that words convey meaning principally *in their relationship to other words*. This is another way of stating the importance of context which we stressed above (pp. 28-9).
- Here we should stress the importance of original language exegesis. If this is not available, the interpreter should use reliable tools and work with several good translations comparatively.
- Carson is probably right in thinking that grammatical fallacies are less common to beginning students (or to preachers) than are word-study fallacies. But certainly here there are many fallacies to be encountered in scholarly literature, e.g., the use of the Aorist to denote "once for all action," the misinterpretation of the definite article, etc. Again the watchword: "Caveat emptor!"

Lest we find ourselves completely intimidated by the dangers of exegesis, let me say that I do not think that much foolishness in these areas is inevitable. I think that a healthy dose of common sense and careful attention to context deliver us from most of these problems.

Ask yourself if someone makes a rare exegetical point that brings questions to your mind: Does this happen ~~in~~ in English. - This will help you analyze it by common sense