



## **MY POLICY ON THE USE OF TRANSLATIONS**

First, I always respect the church's wishes. Most churches in our area are classified as traditional with an average age that is older than the community at large. They accordingly still use the KJV in their services. If the church is strictly KJV, I use only the KJV in my preaching. If the passage is too hard for people to understand, I say something like, "What that means in modern English is..." and then give another translation's rendering without identifying it as such. I've never had a complaint in doing it this way.

However, more and more churches are making the transition to other translations. In my previous church we did several things to move to using other translations. First, we switched our denominational Sunday School literature to using a newer translation. Some members did not like that switch since they liked to read the passage as printed in the quarterly; however, we reminded them that they could achieve the same results by using their own KJV translation.

The effect of making this switch was to gradually educate our members to the efficiency of newer translations. It is my experience that most members want a translation they can understand – they just need guidance in this area.

Second, we added a projection system and screen to our worship services. We currently use televisions instead of a screen. In so doing, we were able to insert various translations on the screen. I used whatever translation was easiest for the audience to understand without my having to explain the verse in detail. (I just think it is morally wrong to read a passage that can't be understood without a dictionary. In those cases, we may as well be speaking Latin! Come to think of it, one church does exactly that!)

That gave everyone a great chance to experience newer translations. Some then bought newer translations for their home study.

Third, we used other material in our Bible studies such as *The Purpose Driven Life*. That book uses an abundance of translations and paraphrases. I did not like the paraphrases being treated like translations, but the overall effect was to help the people improve their level of acceptance of non-KJV choices. Hope this helps!