

Levels of Application

The Bible contains many levels of application. These levels are like a pyramid, with only two commands (love for God and neighbor) at the pinnacle and all other commands at various levels between the pinnacle and the base.

The principles near the top of the pyramid are fewer in number because they are more general and abstract. The commands nearer the base of the pyramid (such as “Do not muzzle your ox”) are more numerous because they are more specific, detailed and concrete.

The commands near the base sometimes seem pointless or obscure until we move up to higher levels on the pyramid to discover the principles or reasons for the commands. Conversely, the principles near the top of the pyramid often seem vague and abstract until they are fleshed out by the more concrete principles near the base.

(Excerpt from *Applying the Bible* by Jack Kuhatschek, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990, 54)