

Interpretation - Observing the Logical Flow

I. The major conjunctions and logical connections

A. And (coordinating)

Connects two statements or ideas, usually parallel ideas.

kai

Ephesians 1:2

Grace to you **and** peace from God our Father **and** the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:6

...one God **and** Father of all who is over all **and** through all **and** in all.

B. But (contrasting)

Indicates a difference or contrast with what came before.

alla

Ephesians 2:19

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, **but** you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household...

Ephesians 4:29

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, **but** only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

C. The big three logical connections

i. Examples

1: Purpose: The husband ran into the store *so that* he could buy tortillas.

2: Purpose: The husband ran into the store *in order to* buy tortillas.

3: Reason: The husband ran into the store *because* he was hungry.

4: Reason: The husband ran into the store. *For* he was hungry.

5: Conclusion: The husband ran into the store *and so* he was hungry.

6: Conclusion: The husband ran into the store. *Therefore* he was hungry.

ii. So that/in order that/that (purpose, result)

States the purpose for something. *I went to the store **so that** I could buy food.*

hina - “in order that, so that, that”

Ephesians 4:10, 14, 28, 29

*He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, **so that** He might fill all things.)*

***As a result**, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming...*

*He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, **so that** he will have something to share with one who has need.*

*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, **so that** it will give grace to those who hear.*

iii. For/because/since (reason, grounds, explanation)

Gives the reason for a statement. I went to the store *because* I was hungry.

gar - “For, you see” (marker of cause, reason, or clarification/explanation, often answers ‘Why?’)

Ephesians 2:8, 14

***For** by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...*

***For** He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall...*

hoti - “Because” (gives the reason, answers ‘Why?’)

Ephesians 4:25; 5:16

*Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, **for** we are members of one another.*

*...making the most of your time, **because** the days are evil.*

iv. Therefore/so/on account of this (inferences, a conclusion or consequence)

Draws a conclusion or inference from a previous section. I ran out of food. *So* I went to the store.

oun - “Therefore, so, then” (more broad than *dio*)

Ephesians 4:1, 17

***Therefore** I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...*

***So** this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind...*

dio - “Therefore, on account of which” (direct consequence or reason)

Ephesians 4:8, 25

Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, he led captive a host of captives, And He gave gifts to men.”

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.

dia touto - “On account of this, for this reason”

Ephesians 1:15; 5:17; 6:13

For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints...

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

- D. Table Exercise: Rewrite “The husband went to the store because he was hungry” to mean the same thing but using *therefore* instead of *because*.

II. Clauses

A. Explicit vs implicit connections

The man who was jogging across the road died *because* he didn’t look left (*because* is explicit).

The man who was jogging across the road died. He didn’t look left (*because* implied).

The man who was jogging across the road died, having not looked left (*because* implied).

B. Main vs dependent clauses

in order that/so that/that, because, while/when, where, if, participles (’ing’ words)

Ephesians 2:14-16

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, **so that** in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

- C. Table exercise: Find the main subject and verb(s), and identify at least two dependent clauses

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

But God [who is rich in mercy]
made us alive
(by grace you have been saved)
even when we were dead in sin
and raised us up
and seated us with Christ [in the heavenly places]

because of His great love
so that He might show His immeasurable kindness

Flow of Ephesians 2.4-7

D. by/through (means/manner)

dia - “Through” (means). I drove in that nail. But how? What means? Through or by using a hammer...

Ephesians 1:5

*He predestined us to adoption as sons **through** Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...*

Ephesians 1:7

*In Him we have redemption **through** His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

Ephesians 2:8

*For by grace you have been saved **through** faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...*

Ephesians 2:16

*...and might reconcile them both in one body to God **through** the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.*

E. Participles

Participles in English usually end in ‘ing’ like running. They are commonly used in Greek to modify a verb with another phrase.

Colossians 1:28

*We proclaim Him, **admonishing** every man and **teaching** every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.*

1 Peter 2:1-2

*Therefore, **putting aside** all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...*

1 Peter 1:13

*Therefore, **prepare** your minds for action, **keep sober** in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Titus 2:11-14

*For the grace of God has appeared, **bringing salvation** to all men, **instructing us** to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*

James 1:2-3

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **knowing** that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

Matthew 28:19-20

*“**Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

- i. Table Exercise: What does each phrase modify? What are the connections?

Ephesians 5:25-27

*Husbands, love your wives, **just as** Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **so that** He might sanctify her, **having** cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **that** He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, **having** no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; **but that** she would be holy and blameless.*

ii. Example Diagram

Husbands, **love your wives**
just as Christ also loved the church
and gave Himself up for her,
so that He might sanctify her,
having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
so that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory,
having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing;
but that she would be holy and blameless.

Flow of Ephesians 5.25-27

III. Synthesis of a Main Argument

- A. Pick your main subject and verb
- B. Show the main themes in the text
- C. Use the words in the text
- D. Show the connections in the text

IV. Table Exercise: Write a main argument for Ephesians 2:1-10

V. Main Argument: How do we synthesize Ephesians 4:11-16

God gave [gifted leaders]
to equip [saints for ministry]
for building up [the body of Christ]
until we mature [to the fullness of the stature of Christ]
so that we not be unstable children
but (by speaking the truth in love)
we grow up into the head, Christ
from Him the body **causes itself** to grow

Flow of Ephesians 4.11-16

God gave gifted leaders to restore the saints to maturity. (170→10)

God gave gifted leaders to restore the saints to maturity so that we grow together. (170→15)

God gave gifted leaders to restore the saints to maturity so that we grow together into our head. (170→18)

God gave gifted leaders to restore the saints to maturity so that we grow together into our head by speaking the truth in love. (170→24)