

“Committeth adultery”

The Present Indicative deception

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Assertions/Conclusions of this article

This article is simply meant to show that this supposed ‘continuous’ phrases rendered as ‘committeth adultery’ in the NT does not necessarily infer a perpetual state of adultery.

For now I have included information about the tense of the words Jesus used to describe ‘committed adultery’, but will be reworking this page over time.

The basis of this discussion, as you will see, still falls back to ‘context’ of the whole, not this ‘continuous’ verb that some erroneously assert must be perpetual in its intent.

Our intent is solely to show that it is still the context of scriptures as a whole that make this determination.

Supporting Evidence

In the Present form the Indicative is the ONLY manner in which to show that NO 'ongoing' issue exists.

As you read this small article and the quotes, ask yourself this:

Why on earth would a greek writer use the ONLY Present form of the greek that DOESNT show any 'ongoing' consequence *IF* his intent WERE TO SHOW an ongoing consequence especially when there ARE ways in the greek to literally show an act with ongoing consequences ?

...this is the Greek that is in question.

3429 moicatai - v_ Present midD/pasD Indicative 3 Sg - IS-committING-ADULTERY

Used in Matt 5:32b, Matt 19:9 and Mark 10:11-12

3431 moiceuei v_ Present Act Indicative 3 Sg - IS-ADULTERING

Used in Luke 16:18

The argument used by some is that since verbs used in the present tense are usually ‘continuous’, that this means that the words above are also ‘ongoing into perpetuity’.

Instead of arguing something that we know little about, the intricacies of the Greek language, we will present arguments concerning this ‘continuous’ verb and let the reader discern the matter for themselves.

These quotes were taken from various written sources.

“Present Tense

The present tense usually denotes continuous kind of action. It shows 'action in progress' or 'a state of persistence.' When used in the indicative mood, the present tense denotes action taking place or going on in the present time.

http://www.ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/verbs1.htm

“For action happening at the present time, only the 'present tense' is available. Whether the writer is wishing in any particular instance to emphasize the progressive aspect of the verb or just indicate a simple occurrence at the present time, there is only one choice of tense to use. Therefore, one must consider the context and the basic meaning of the verb to determine whether the emphasis is on the continuous aspect of the action or merely on the present time element. **It may be that no real emphasis on progressive action is intended but, for a statement requiring the element of present time, there is no choice but to use the 'present tense'.** (Of course outside the indicative mood the emphasis almost certainly will be on the progressive element of the verb, since the aorist tense could readily be employed).

http://www.ntgreek.org/learn_nt_greek/inter-tense.htm

“Linear aspect doesn't necessarily mean action perceived as continuing into perpetuity. It simply represents the subject as speaking from a perspective in the midst of the action. "Friend, I do thee no wrong." These words are spoken as the householder is in the midst of compensating his workers. The addressee has yet to take up that which is his. From the speaker's perspective, he is doing something (and he denies that what he is doing is wrong.) The linear idea is not absent.

<http://www.ntgreek.net/present.htm>

“The present tense in Greek does double duty as both simple present and continuous present tense. That is, if you say “(insert greek here)” , you may translate it as either “He writes a letter” or “He is writing a letter,” depending on your meaning. There's no distinction between these forms in present tense.

<http://www.langintro.com/greek/verbs/shortcut.htm>

“The Present Tense With reference to aspect, the present tense is internal (that is, it portrays the action from inside of the event, without special regard for beginning or end), but it makes no comment as to fulfillment (or completion). The present tense's portrayal of an event "focuses on its development or progress and sees the occurrence in regard to its internal make-up, without beginning or end in view".{Fanning,102}. It is sometimes called progressive. It "basically represents an activity as a process (or in progress)" (Mckay, 225). **With reference to time, the present indicative is usually present time, but it may be other than or broader than the present time (e.g. historical present, gnomic present).**

<http://www.bcbsr.com/greek/gtense.html>

Please feel free to copy a sentence or so from the quotes above, paste it into your google search bar and find the source and compare what we've presented here.

Im very confident that you will find that nothing can be determined simply from the greek present verb being 'continuous' in the manner in which some assert.

With the Present Indicative verb context is the deciding factor because there aren't a lot of options. But we can easily discern that in the Present indicative that the word is almost assuredly speaking in the present tense alone and not making claims about perpetuity.

In the Present form the Indicative is the ONLY manner in which to show that NO 'ongoing' issue exists.

Why on earth would a greek writer use the ONLY Present form of the greek that DOESNT show any 'ongoing' consequence *IF* his intent WERE TO SHOW an ongoing consequence especially when there ARE ways in the greek to literally show an act with ongoing consequences ?

All the writer had to do to show an ongoing issue WAS the case was use ANY mood other than the indicative and it would have been pretty much set in stone that it was 'continuous' beyond just the act itself.

Yet the writers in EVERY case of 'committeth adultery' in this scenario have repeatedly used the ONLY form of the Present in the greek that DOESNT show an 'ongoing state'.

Ask yourself why.

Why not use the any other tense instead of the Present Indicative *IF* the intent were to actually show an ongoing issue ?