

Thus, although the KJV always follows strict grammatical principles as to the difference between "thou" and "thee" and the difference between "you" and "ye", I have never come across a person who could tell me without investigation exactly what is the difference in meaning between these four words. Some will say that the use of "thou's" shows reverence. If so why did Jesus wish to show reverence to Satan (or to Peter) in Matthew 16:23? Such differences are minor in comparison to the many points at which the average reader must have the meaning explained to him or else he will receive a false impression, not through any error on the part of the King James translators, but simply from the fact that the English language has so greatly changed.

Ministers of churches that use the New International Version or some other of the good modern translations, report that they are able to cover much more ground in a sermon since they no longer have to spend a fourth of their time explaining what that antiquated language means.

Of course it must be recognized that the English language was not even in existence when the original Bible was written and the really important questions are: (1) how true is a translation of the New Testament to the original Greek? and (2) how near is the Greek text that is translated to the autographs, of which no copies exist? In my opinion there are two valid procedures for determining the proper Greek text of the New Testament. One is to base it on the very earliest manuscripts and give them tremendous importance, sometimes even allowing one of them to offset the readings of hundreds of later manuscripts. A second is to take the reading of the majority of the manuscripts, even though some of these are copies of copies of copies, etc. I believe that the proper course would be between the two, paying attention to both. The KJV follows neither of these methods, since most of the manuscripts (including all of the earliest ones) were not available when it was made. Its Greek text is based on the few manuscripts that happened to be in Basel when Erasmus prepared the first printed Greek New Testament. During the next century a few changes were made on the basis of a very few other manuscripts. A publisher who printed an edition of the Greek New Testament twenty years after the KJV was issued declared in his blurb that his publication was "the text received by everybody", using the Latin