

How to cite the Bible in academic papers for CES

Notes for the CES Writing Protocols class

First, there is *only one time* that you use a footnote with a Bible citation. That is the *first time* you quote the Bible in your paper. Your footnote is where you establish *which translation* will be the one that you will use throughout your paper. That is what the footnote is for, not to show where the quote is found in the Bible.

Example: The Bible indicates there is evidence for the existence of God within the soul of man: "God has placed eternity in the hearts of men" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).¹ ← note also the order of punctuation.

Note that the Bible book (not abbreviated), chapter, and verse are in the body of the paper, not in the footnote. Look down at the footnote on this page to see what needs to be stated there. The footnote is used simply to establish *which translation* will be the one you will use throughout your paper.

Once you have given this footnote naming which translation (and it's necessary data, publisher, and date) you are using, then you need only give the name of the Bible book (not abbreviated), chapter, and verse in the text (not in a footnote) after that.

Example: There is also external evidence for the existence of God. "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood by what has been made" (Romans 1:20). ← note also where the final period goes.

How to write out Bible References

The traditional method of showing several verses *when those verses are consecutive* would look like this, John 3:16-21 and not as John 3:16, 21.

John 3:16, 21 means that the reference is to *only two verses*, John chapter three, verse 16 and verse 21.

Learn this:

John 3:16 → Means John chapter three and verse sixteen.

John 3:16-21 → Means John chapter three and verses sixteen *through* verse twenty-one.

John 3:16, 21 → Means John chapter three and verse sixteen and verse twenty-one.

Also, when showing reference to more than one chapter (and its verses) within the same book, it would have a semicolon between the chapter numbers: John 3:16, 21; 4:3-7; 5:1-2, 8.

And, again, these references go in the body of the text, not in footnotes. Example: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Later in your paper, if you quote the Bible *from a different translation* than you indicated in your footnote, you do **not** make a footnote of that. You simply name the translation at the end of the verse citation in the text.

Let's say that you established that you were using the NIV at the time of your first Bible quote, and you now want to quote from the *King James Version*, you would simply do it like this:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16, *King James Version*).

The Bible reference and name of the translation simply go at the end of the sentence, not in a footnote.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture is from the *New International Version* (Zondervan Publishing Company, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984).