



WOODROW KROLL MINISTRIES

“The Kroll Scale of Bible Illiteracy”

Dr. Woodrow Kroll, Founder

Think about what these leaders have to say about Bible illiteracy.

“Despite the impressive statistics concerning Bible reading and study, it is apparent that ignorance about its contents is widespread.” – George Gallup Jr

“The Christian body in America is immersed in a crisis of biblical illiteracy.” – Barna Research Group

“I have watched with growing disbelief as the evangelical church has cheerfully plunged into astonishing theological illiteracy.” – David Wells

“Even secular scholars like Ed Hirsch conclude that illiteracy leads to decline-moral, cultural and spiritual. Christians who allow themselves to remain Biblically illiterate are hastening the process.” – Judy Lunsford

What cannot be measured cannot be adequately addressed. We can measure the distance of a kilometer or a mile and therefore can adequately discuss the length of each. We cannot measure a mother’s love and so while we can address it because we know it’s real, we cannot adequately address it.

In the search for answers to how to stop the plague of Bible illiteracy in our country, our churches, and our families, it has been difficult to address because we have had no way positively to measure Bible literacy. If you cannot measure the positive, you cannot adequately detect the absence of that positive. So a huge need in the battle against Bible illiteracy was to devise a way to describe what Bible literacy is.

What I am presenting in this white paper is my attempt to rectify this. **The Kroll Scale of Bible Literacy** seeks to quantify what we mean by Bible literacy and therefore when those quantifiable factors are not present we can identify what we mean by Bible illiteracy. This scale is not perfect; none ever is. But at least it is a place to start. Please make use of this scale to assist you in identifying the traits of a person who is Bible literate and the traits of a person who is not.

The Kroll Scale of Bible Literacy

-3 No knowledge of the Bible at all

A Bible? What's a Bible? I have never seen a Bible before and I don't know what you're talking about.

-2 Familiarity with the Bible but no trust in its claims or authority

A Bible? Yes, I have one someplace, but it's just for people like my grandmother. I don't read the Bible because I don't think it's what some people claim it to be. It has no impact on my life.

-1 Familiarity with the Bible but minimal trust in the claims or authority and never read it or hear its truth so the Bible has little or no personal impact on your life

A Bible? Yes, I have one but there's not much in it that appeals to me. I don't know if it's what it claims to be or not. Who's to say? It has little influence on me because I don't read it.

+1 Trust in the Bible and its claims and authority but only occasionally read it or hear its truth so the Bible has only occasional personal impact on your life

A Bible? Yes, it's God's Word. I believe it's inspired by God and should be read and obeyed, but I only occasionally get around to reading it myself. In fact, I have three copies, but I don't read any of them more than once a week.

+2 Trust in the Bible and its claims and authority and regularly read it or hear its truth with understanding so the Bible has regular personal impact on your life

A Bible? Yes, I have one and read it regularly. I believe it's inspired by God. I'm in a Bible reading program at church. I also read a verse or two along with my devotional book on a fairly regular basis.

+3 Trust in the Bible and its claims and authority and daily read it or hear its truth so the Bible produces a passion to personally connect with the Author and induces the reader to share Him with others

A Bible? Read it? Are you kidding? I want to know God so badly that I devour the Bible daily. I used to read a couple of verses along with my devotional but now that's not enough for me. Through reading God's Word I get to know Him intimately and, as a result, I am energized to share God's story with my friends and family.