DIFFERENT TAKES ON BIBLE TRANSLATION...

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Category: Quotes

It is always interesting to see what people remember when you give a talk. Yesterday, Will Grady blogged about a meeting where I had given a talk on Bible Translation. The thing which struck him most was a throw-away line about the difference between a language and a dialect. Go to his blog if you want to find out what it was. However, I was very struck by the last paragraph of his post:

> *Bible translation is a social justice issue, and here we can see that the line we draw between â€˜spiritualâ€™ and â€˜socialâ€™ issues is false. Evangelism and mission intertwine with each other wrapped in Godâ€™s concern that people know him spiritually and that he cares for justice.*

I wish I'd said that!

Meanwhile, Rod Decker has unearthed an excellent quote by Dave Black, one of the team who worked on the International Standard Version.

> *No controversy has been more overworked these days than the one over modern Bible translations. It is thought a crowning virtue to be opinionated about what is the â€œbestâ€ translation. But no translation of the Bible is perfect. (This includes the ISV of course.) There is much artificial whipped-up enthusiasm among Christians today who have found the â€œperfectâ€ translation that â€œfinally gets it right.â€ The same enthusiasm can be worked up by a cheerleader for â€œslaveâ€ over â€œservant.â€ Tie that to a book promotion and you have a possible recipe for disaster. (Read the whole thing.)*

I just wish that everyone promoting English translations would show the same sort of humility as the ISV team (what a difference a vowel makes).