

**Notes on NT Exegetical Paper Style**  
**Westminster Seminary California**  
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1. For abbreviations and further details of styles conform your paper to: Patrick Alexander, *et al.* eds., *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999).
2. Your paper must clearly state and defend a thesis. The body of the paper unpacks your thesis statement. Exegetical papers must never be disconnected “verse-by-verse” comments.
3. You should use only a **12 point** font in the body of your paper including inset quotations which run four or more lines (below).
4. Give footnote citations at the **end** of a sentence not in the middle of a sentence. The reader’s eye goes down to the footnote when it is cited and this chops up the flow of thought for the reader. If you have more than one note per sentence (usually not necessary), combine your ideas into one citation at the end of the sentence.
5. Bible references should be cited in parentheses in the body of your text not in footnotes. For instance: “Paul says that we have died to the law (Gal 2:19; cf. Rom 7:1–6).”
6. Your paper must meet the minimum page count specified in the course syllabus and not exceed the maximum page count.
7. Be sure to number your pages! (Students often forget this critical feature.)
8. I do not want a cover sheet or a fancy folder for your paper. Simply put your name and class information on your first page.
9. Quotations of four lines or more should be inset *without quotation marks* to set it off from your own words.
10. Prof. Clark says, “Endnotes are a tool of the Devil.” In order to resist the Devil, please use *footnotes* instead of endnotes! Be sure that your footnote citations conform to the *The SBL Handbook of Style* which is the required style.
11. Make sure that your footnotes are listed at the bottom of the page where they are cited, not on the next page where word processors sometimes put them.
12. Be sure to break up your thought into discrete paragraphs. I have read student papers with paragraphs which extend up to four or more pages long!
13. Finally, this paper is your opportunity to make the subject of the class and a particular passage in the NT “your own.” Teach me something! Edify me! Have fun!