Syntactical Layout Chart

I. Introduction

A. A syntactical layout shows the relationship of clauses in a sentence, emphasizing subordination and coordination of clauses.
   1. It shows grammatical subordination of secondary clauses and logical subordination of ideas.
   2. It shows how to ideas of one sentence relates to one another in a passage. This shows the logical structure of a passage.
   3. Sometimes it is helpful to also include phrases, such as prepositional phrases and adverbial phrases.
      a. In this class, we will focus on clause level syntactical layouts.

B. A syntactical layout reveals:
   1. The overview sentence structure.
   2. How various parts of the sentence fit together.
   3. The larger structural patterns and flow of thought in a passage.
   4. The passage structure to prepare the way for a sermon outline.

C. Advantages
   1. Clarifies the argument of passages with complex logic, such as letters and sermons. (e.g. Eph 1:3-14 is one sentence in Greek)
   2. Shows the overall sentence structure
   3. Simpler than a word level syntactical diagram
   4. Provides chart that can be used for other Bible study observations. You can mark up the chart with observations, such as contrasts, repetitions, connectives, etc.
   5. Can also be used for inductive study of the English bible in a literal translation.

D. A syntactical layout is not as useful for narrative passages, where the sentence structure is simpler.

II. Procedure:

A. Write out the passage, with each clause on a separate line. Bible software saves time.

B. Enter main clause of each sentence at the left margin.

C. Indent each subordinate clause

D. Draw a line with an arrow from a subordinate clause to the word in another clause that it modifies
   1. Subordinate clauses can appear before or after a main clause

      Gal 2:11:
      But when Cephas came to Antioch
      I opposed him to his face
      because he stood condemned

   2. When a clause appears in the middle of another clause but is logically subordinate to it, use 3 dots as an ellipsis and move the clause or phrase to the logically subordinate position. This is often done with relative clauses
“Jesus who is risen is no longer here”

Jesus . . . is no longer here

who is risen

E. If there are several coordinate clauses joined by “and”, “or”, or commas, indent them to the same level and number them or put brackets around the group.
   1. If there is more than one main clause, they should both be at the left margin.

F. If a new sentence is logically subordinate to another sentence, indent it and draw an arrow to the word in another clause to which it is logically subordinate.

G. When you get to a new paragraph or section that is not logically subordinate, skip a blank line and start the new sentence at the left margin.

H. For each subordinate clause, indicate the type of clause, i.e. its function in the sentence in relationship to the clause it modifies:

   1. Adverbial
      -temporal: same, prior or subsequent time (“when”, “after”, “while”, “before”)
      -conditional (“if”)
      -purpose (“in order that”, “so that”)
      -result (“so that”)
      -causal (“because”)
      -local (“where”)
      -concessive (“although”)
      -comparative
      -instrumental
      -manner
      -contrast (“but”)

   2. Adjectival
      -relative (“who”, “which”, “that”)
      -pure adjectival

   3. Noun clauses
      -subject
      -complement (object of verb)
      -indirect statement
      -apposition
III. Examples:

A. Eph. 1:3-6:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing relative

in the heavenly places in Christ,

comparative just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

purpose that we should be holy and blameless before Him;

In love He predestined us to adoption as sons

through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved

B. 1 Thess. 2:1-2:

For you yourselves know, brethren,

that our coming to you was not in vain object

after we had already suffered temporal – prior

and been mistreated at Philippi, temporal – prior

But . . . we had the boldness in our God

to speak to you the gospel of God amidst much opposition. adjectival

C. 1 John 4:7:

Αγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους,

ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστίν, 

καὶ

πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται 

καὶ

γενώσει τὸν θεόν. 

IV. Common Types of Subordinate Clauses

A. Adverbial clauses:

1. **temporal:**
   a. same time: “when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him”
   b. prior time: “after he had risen, he appeared to Mary”
   c. subsequent time: “before faith came, we were kept in custody under the Law”

2. **conditional:** “if you love me, you will keep my commandments”

3. **purpose:** “give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty”

4. **result:** “you became imitators of us and the Lord, so that you became an example to all the believers”

5. **causal** (reason): “they will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers”

6. **local:** “where your treasure is, there your heart will be”

7. **concessive:** “although he existed in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped”

8. **comparative:** “it will be done for you as you wish”

9. **instrumental** (means): “which of you can add a cubit to his height by being anxious?”

10. **manner:** "Others mocking said, 'They are full of sweet wine'"

B. Adjectival clauses:

1. **relative:** “this is my beloved Son, whom I love”

2. **adjectival:** “we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God” (1 Th. 2:1)

C. Noun clauses

1. **subject:** “that he is coming is certain”

2. **complement** (object): “do you believe that I am able to do this”

3. **indirect statement:** “he told them that he must go”

4. **apposition** to a noun: “I had no idea that you would oppose me”