LEE LEATHER CO.

Ribbons, Endbands & Endsheets

What to keep, what to replace — and how to tell your rebinder

The small parts carry the memories. Here is how a careful rebinder treats them.

Written by a working Bible rebinder, in plain language.
No jargon. No tools needed. Just your Bible and five minutes.

The conservator rule

Keep as much of the original as possible. Replace only what you ask to be replaced, or what must be replaced to get the Bible back in working order.

That rule covers three parts people often overlook: the ribbons, the endbands, and the endsheets. They are small, but they are often where the memories live.

Ribbons

Ribbons are almost always mangled. Years of pulling, folding, and being shut inside a closing cover wear them out. Most of the time, ribbons must be replaced.

But if you want your original ribbons kept, say so. If they can be saved, they will be kept. If they cannot, a rebinder can match the colour as closely as possible — tell them if an exact match matters, or if close is fine.

When you send your Bible in, count your ribbons and note their colours. 'Three ribbons: two red, one gold' is more useful than 'some ribbons.'

Endbands

Endbands are the small bands at the top and bottom of the spine — the headband and the tailband. They help hold the pages together and they finish the look of the spine.

Original endbands are kept unless you ask for new ones, or unless they are too damaged to save. If they are replaced, they are replaced to match the style of the original as closely as possible.

Endsheets

Endsheets are the pages that join the cover to the first and last pages of the Bible. They are often where names, dates, and gifts are written.

Original endsheets are kept whenever possible. If an endsheet is torn or falling apart, a rebinder will tell you before replacing it — and will ask what to do about anything written on it.

If your endsheets carry writing that matters to you, photograph them before you send the Bible, and tell the rebinder in writing that they must be kept.

Tell your rebinder — checklist

- ■ Keep my original ribbons if they can be saved. / Replace my ribbons with these colours: _____
- ■ Keep my original endbands if they can be saved. / Replace them.
- ■ Keep my original endsheets. There is writing on them that must not be lost.
- ■ Number of ribbons I want: _____ Colours: _____
- ■ Anything else that must stay exactly as it is: _____

Write it down and send it with the Bible. Spoken wishes get forgotten; written wishes get followed.

This guide gives general care advice. It does not replace a rebinder's judgment on a damaged Bible. If you are unsure, ask a rebinder before you act.
Lee Leather Co., Corryton, Tennessee — Bibles made by hand.