

Community Determined Models

I. The Historical Critical Model

- A. The "Bart Ehrman" Model
- B. Believe that the Canon is simply the result of human activity
- C. The "Naturalization of Canon"
- D. Positives
 - 1. Community of Believers does play a role in determining which books belong
 - 2. The Books did not simply "drop" from the sky
- E. Negatives
 - 1. Insistence that the Church play a definitive role in determining Canon
 - 2. The Insistence on the "Naturalization" of Canon (strictly a human endeavor)

II. The Roman Catholic Model

- A. Tri-Fold Authority Structure
 - 1. Scripture
 - 2. Tradition
 - 3. Majesterium (Pope/Bishop)
 - a) Decides what counts as Scripture
 - b) The only authority that can rightly interpret scripture
 - 4. Ultimately the Church determines what books belong in the Canon
 - 5. The Church authenticates the Canon
- B. Positives
 - 1. The Church does play a role in determining Canon
 - 2. Admit that divine activity is involved in the process
 - 3. We do have the same 27 books in the New Testament
- C. Negatives
 - 1. Ephesians 2:20 - the Church is built on the foundation of Apostolic teaching, not the other way around
 - 2. The Church cannot establish the Canon, the Church already had a Canon, the Old Testament
 - 3. From the earliest days, Christians received and regarded books as Scripture

III. The Canonical Criticism

- A. Largely influenced by Brevard Childs
- B. For Childs, the most important thing was having a Canon
- C. He believed that the text was altered - added to - modified, etc.
- D. Canon: Books that function as a Canon - even though they have been changed to some degree
- E. Problems:
 - 1. The entire idea that the text underwent changes . . .
 - 2. Inspiration is not necessarily with the original writer
 - 3. Puts Church authority over the text