

Canonicity of the Bible

The Relationship between Church and Canon

Wrong View

Church is determiner of canon
Church is mother of canon
Church is magistrate of canon
Church is regulator of canon
Church is judge of canon
Church is master of canon

Right View

Church is discoverer of canon
Church is child of canon
Church is minister of canon
Church is recognizer of canon
Church is witness of canon
Church is servant of canon

Principles Used To Determine Canonicity

- 1) Was the book written by or contain the voice of a prophet or apostle of God?**-The basic question was whether a book was prophetic or apostolic. Propheticity determined canonicity.
- 2) Was the writer confirmed by acts of God?**- A miracle is an act of God to confirm the word of God given through a prophet of God to the people of God.
- 3) Does the message tell the truth about God?**- That is, does the book tell the truth about God and his world as known from previous revelations?
- 4) Did it come with the power of God?**- Another test for canonicity is a book's power to edify and equip believers.
- 5) Was it accepted by the people of God?**- A prophet of God was confirmed by an act of God (miracle) and was recognized as a spokesman by the people who received the message. Thus, the seal of canonicity depended on whether the book was accepted by the people.