

Following Jesus



Reading the Bible Like Jesus

Framing the Problem

How not What



Do deal seriously with *what* the
Bible says we have to deal
seriously with *how* we read it





Bible



You

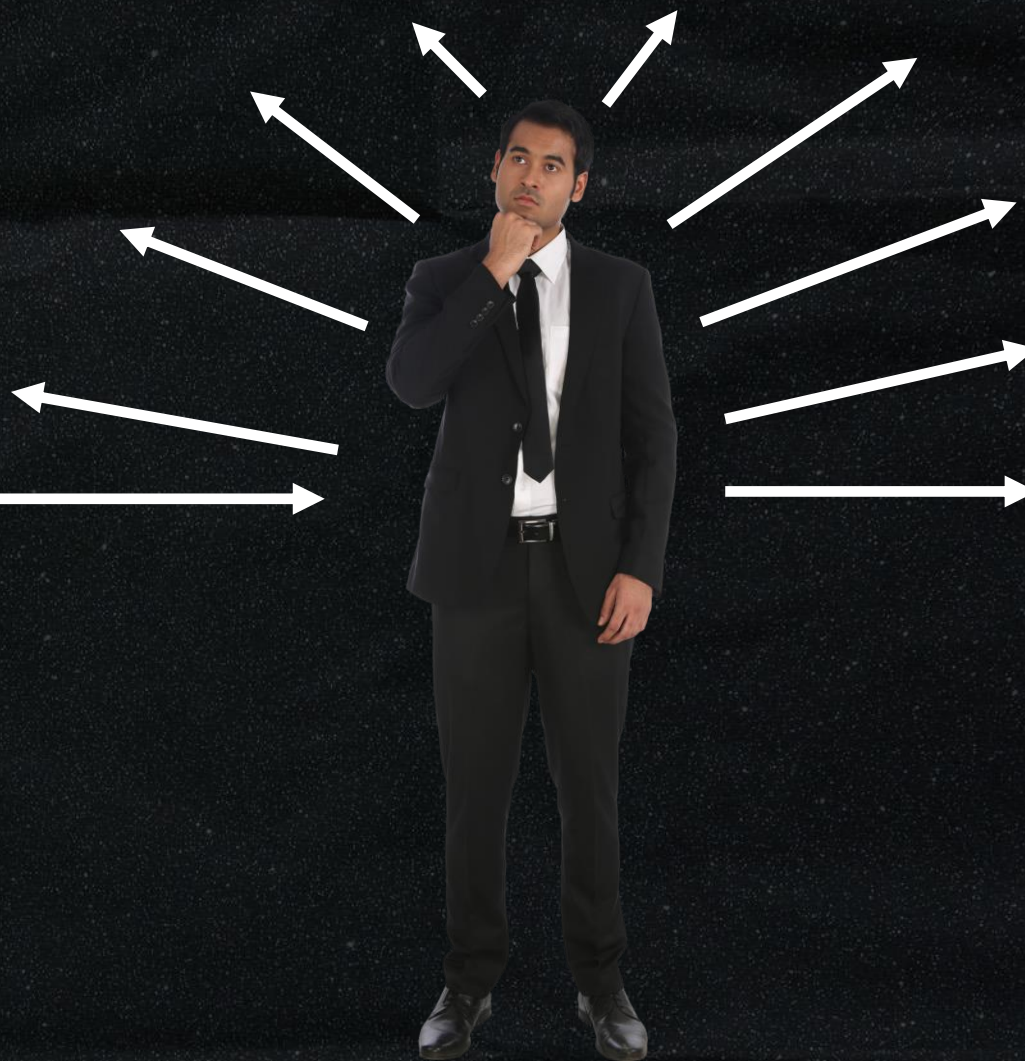


what the Bible means = what the
Bible meant





Bible



You



what the Bible means ≠ what the
Bible meant



Meaning has BOTH a past and a
present



Author
Text
Reader
Community



Attempts to navigate the past/present
tension of meaning and the sources of
authority get lumped into one of two
categories; critical and non-critical



Critical



Non-Critical



Critical Approaches

- Sometimes referred to as the “historical-critical method”
- Interpretation is not controlled by any pre-existing religious convictions or priorities
- Interpretation controlled by;
 - Concern for semantics
 - Attention to genre
 - A willingness to bracket out truth



Non-Critical Approaches

- Also called “confessionalist,” “traditionalist,” or “canonical.”
- Assumption is the Bible is the church’s book and therefore must be read according to the church’s theological commitments
- Interpretation controlled by a predetermined commitment to the essential truthfulness and coherence of scripture



What sources of authority does each approach tend to emphasize?



Critical

Author
Reader
Text
Community

Non-Critical



Critical

Text	Author
Reader	Community

Non-Critical



Critical vs Non-Critical is not an issue
of right vs wrong but one of historic
emphasis



Where have you been taught to place emphasis in your own Bible reading?



What are the
advantages/disadvantages of each
approach?



God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

We know we need both approaches.
The question becomes how to combine
them.



Jesus' approach (Mt. 19:1-12)



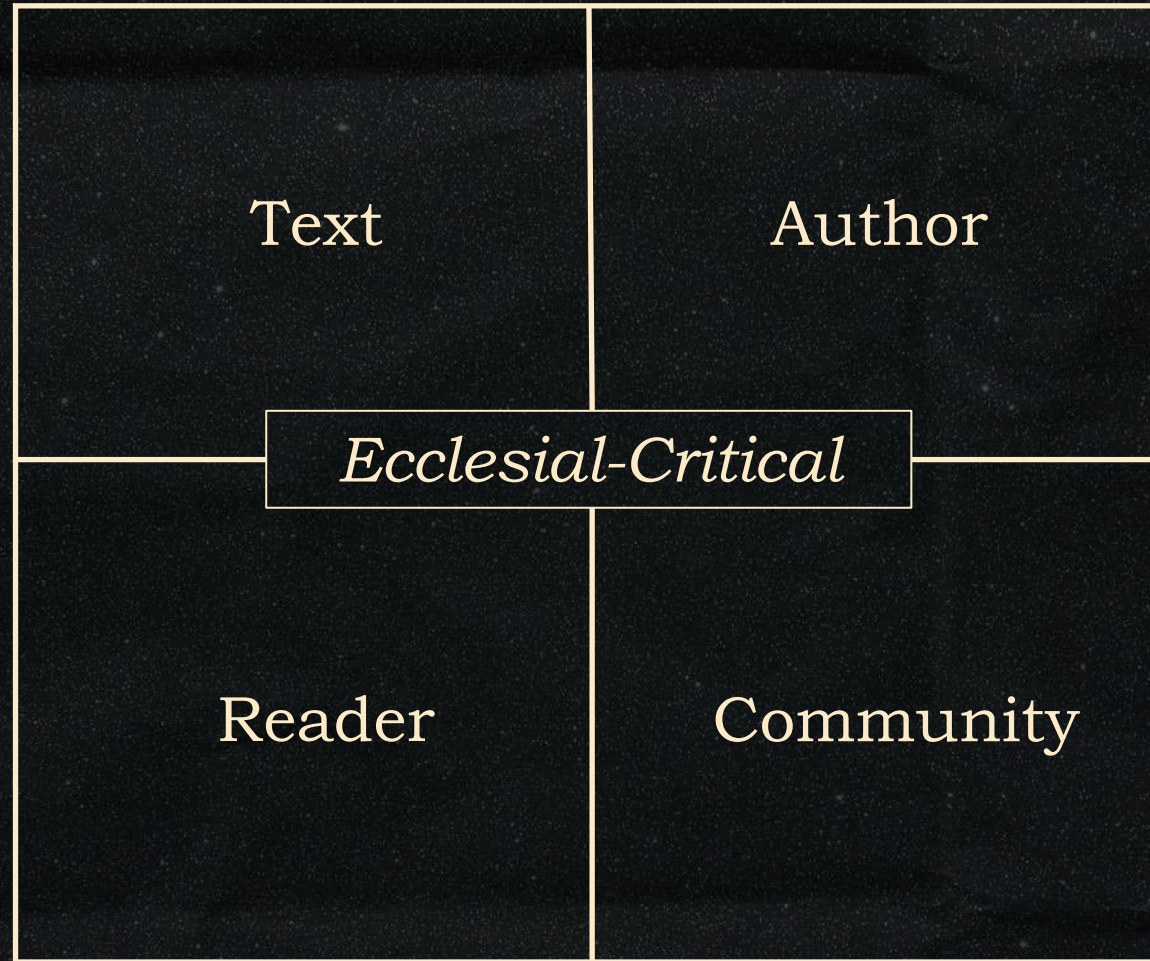
Jesus' makes use of critical insights to
serve a non-critical goal.



I'm calling this an *ecclesial-critical*
approach to biblical interpretation



Critical



Non-Critical



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