

B. Historical-Critical Method

Evaluating modern scholarship



Unless otherwise indicated, all English Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to reuse this file is granted under Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International: CC BY-SA 4.0. In addition, permission is given under GNU Free Documentation License, reproduced on subsequent pages.

Copyright Specifications

Copyright (c) 2006 Vern S. Poythress.

Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation; with no Invariant Sections, no Front-Cover Texts, and no Back-Cover Texts. A copy of the license is included in the next slides and at

<<http://www.fsf.org/licensing/licenses/fdl.html>>.

The clipart embedded within the slides is from various sources, primarily from MS Office clipart gallery, Corel Clip-Art from *CD-ROM Clipart, Symbols & Flics*, which was part of Corel Draw 3.0, and Corel Megagallery, which came with Corel Draw 8. I have tried to make sure that the clipart can be freely copied and modified, but it is not itself subject to the GNU Free Documentation License. Likewise photos are from various sources, primarily Corel Megagallery. Except when the photos are my own, they are not subject to the GNU Free Documentation License.

GNU Free Documentation License

Version 1.2, November 2002

Copyright (C) 2000,2001,2002 Free Software Foundation, Inc.

51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301, USA

Everyone is permitted to copy and distribute verbatim copies of this license document, but changing it is not allowed.

0. PREAMBLE

The purpose of this License is to make a manual, textbook, or other functional and useful document "free" in the sense of freedom: to assure everyone the effective freedom to copy and redistribute it, with or without modifying it, either commercially or noncommercially. Secondly, this License preserves for the author and publisher a way to get credit for their work, while not being considered responsible for modifications made by others.

This License is a kind of "copyleft", which means that derivative works of the document must themselves be free in the same sense. It complements the GNU General Public License, which is a copyleft license designed for free software.

We have designed this License in order to use it for manuals for free software, because free software needs free documentation: a free program should come with manuals providing the same freedoms that the software does. But this License is not limited to software manuals; it can be used for any textual work, regardless of subject matter or whether it is published as a printed book. We recommend this License principally for works whose purpose is instruction or reference.

1. APPLICABILITY AND DEFINITIONS

This License applies to any manual or other work, in any medium, that contains a notice placed by the copyright holder saying it can be distributed under the terms of this License. Such a notice grants a world-wide, royalty-free license, unlimited in duration, to use that work under the conditions stated herein. The "Document", below, refers to any such manual or work. Any member of the public is a licensee, and is addressed as "you". You accept the license if you copy, modify or distribute the work in a way requiring permission under copyright law.

A "Modified Version" of the Document means any work containing the Document or a portion of it, either copied verbatim, or with modifications and/or translated into another language.

A "Secondary Section" is a named appendix or a front-matter section of the Document that deals exclusively with the relationship of the publishers or authors of the Document to the Document's overall subject (or to related matters) and contains nothing that could fall directly within that overall subject. (Thus, if the Document is in part a textbook of mathematics, a Secondary Section may not explain any mathematics.) The relationship could be a matter of historical connection with the subject or with related matters, or of legal, commercial, philosophical, ethical or political position regarding them.

The "Invariant Sections" are certain Secondary Sections whose titles are designated, as being those of Invariant Sections, in the notice that says that the Document is released under this License. If a section does not fit the above definition of Secondary then it is not allowed to be designated as Invariant. The Document may contain zero Invariant Sections. If the Document does not identify any Invariant Sections then there are none.

The "Cover Texts" are certain short passages of text that are listed, as Front-Cover Texts or Back-Cover Texts, in the notice that says that the Document is released under this License. A Front-Cover Text may be at most 5 words, and a Back-Cover Text may be at most 25 words.

A "Transparent" copy of the Document means a machine-readable copy, represented in a format whose specification is available to the general public, that is suitable for revising the document straightforwardly with generic text editors or (for images composed of pixels) generic paint programs or (for drawings) some widely available drawing editor, and that is suitable for input to text formatters or for automatic translation to a variety of formats suitable for input to text formatters. A copy made in an otherwise Transparent file format whose markup, or absence of markup, has been arranged to thwart or discourage subsequent modification by readers is not Transparent. An image format is not Transparent if used for any substantial amount of text. A copy that is not "Transparent" is called "Opaque".

Examples of suitable formats for Transparent copies include plain ASCII without markup, Texinfo input format, LaTeX input format, SGML or XML using a publicly available DTD, and standard-conforming simple HTML, PostScript or PDF designed for human modification. Examples of transparent image formats include PNG, XCF and JPG. Opaque formats include proprietary formats that can be read and edited only by proprietary word processors, SGML or XML for which the DTD and/or processing tools are not generally available, and the machine-generated HTML, PostScript or PDF produced by some word processors for output purposes only.

The "Title Page" means, for a printed book, the title page itself, plus such following pages as are needed to hold, legibly, the material this License requires to appear in the title page. For works in formats which do not have any title page as such, "Title Page" means the text near the most prominent appearance of the work's title, preceding the beginning of the body of the text.

A section "Entitled XYZ" means a named subunit of the Document whose title either is precisely XYZ or contains XYZ in parentheses following text that translates XYZ in another language. (Here XYZ stands for a specific section name mentioned below, such as "Acknowledgements", "Dedications", "Endorsements", or "History".) To "Preserve the Title" of such a section when you modify the Document means that it remains a section "Entitled XYZ" according to this definition.

The Document may include Warranty Disclaimers next to the notice which states that this License applies to the Document. These Warranty Disclaimers are considered to be included by reference in this License, but only as regards disclaiming warranties: any other implication that these Warranty Disclaimers may have is void and has no effect on the meaning of this License.

2. VERBATIM COPYING

You may copy and distribute the Document in any medium, either commercially or noncommercially, provided that this License, the copyright notices, and the license notice saying this License applies to the Document are reproduced in all copies, and that you add no other conditions whatsoever to those of this License. You may not use technical measures to obstruct or control the reading or further copying of the copies you make or distribute. However, you may accept compensation in exchange for copies. If you distribute a large enough number of copies you must also follow the conditions in section 3.

You may also lend copies, under the same conditions stated above, and you may publicly display copies.

3. COPYING IN QUANTITY

If you publish printed copies (or copies in media that commonly have printed covers) of the Document, numbering more than 100, and the Document's license notice requires Cover Texts, you must enclose the copies in covers that carry, clearly and legibly, all these Cover Texts: Front-Cover Texts on the front cover, and Back-Cover Texts on the back cover. Both covers must also clearly and legibly identify you as the publisher of these copies. The front cover must present the full title with all words of the title equally prominent and visible. You may add other material on the covers in addition. Copying with changes limited to the covers, as long as they preserve the title of the Document and satisfy these conditions, can be treated as verbatim copying in other respects.

If the required texts for either cover are too voluminous to fit legibly, you should put the first ones listed (as many as fit reasonably) on the actual cover, and continue the rest onto adjacent pages.

If you publish or distribute Opaque copies of the Document numbering more than 100, you must either include a machine-readable Transparent copy along with each Opaque copy, or state in or with each Opaque copy a computer-network location from which the general network-using public has access to download using public-standard network protocols a complete Transparent copy of the Document, free of added material. If you use the latter option, you must take reasonably prudent steps, when you begin distribution of Opaque copies in quantity, to ensure that this Transparent copy will remain thus accessible at the stated location until at least one year after the last time you distribute an Opaque copy (directly or through your agents or retailers) of that edition to the public.

It is requested, but not required, that you contact the authors of the Document well before redistributing any large number of copies, to give them a chance to provide you with an updated version of the Document.

4. MODIFICATIONS

You may copy and distribute a Modified Version of the Document under the conditions of sections 2 and 3 above, provided that you release the Modified Version under precisely this License, with the Modified Version filling the role of the Document, thus licensing distribution and modification of the Modified Version to whoever possesses a copy of it. In addition, you must do these things in the Modified Version:

- * A. Use in the Title Page (and on the covers, if any) a title distinct from that of the Document, and from those of previous versions (which should, if there were any, be listed in the History section of the Document). You may use the same title as a previous version if the original publisher of that version gives permission.

- * B. List on the Title Page, as authors, one or more persons or entities responsible for authorship of the modifications in the Modified Version, together with at least five of the principal authors of the Document (all of its principal authors, if it has fewer than five), unless they release you from this requirement.

- * C. State on the Title page the name of the publisher of the Modified Version, as the publisher.

- * D. Preserve all the copyright notices of the Document.

- * E. Add an appropriate copyright notice for your modifications adjacent to the other copyright notices.

* F. Include, immediately after the copyright notices, a license notice giving the public permission to use the Modified Version under the terms of this License, in the form shown in the Addendum below.

* G. Preserve in that license notice the full lists of Invariant Sections and required Cover Texts given in the Document's license notice.

* H. Include an unaltered copy of this License.

* I. Preserve the section Entitled "History", Preserve its Title, and add to it an item stating at least the title, year, new authors, and publisher of the Modified Version as given on the Title Page. If there is no section Entitled "History" in the Document, create one stating the title, year, authors, and publisher of the Document as given on its Title Page, then add an item describing the Modified Version as stated in the previous sentence.

* J. Preserve the network location, if any, given in the Document for public access to a Transparent copy of the Document, and likewise the network locations given in the Document for previous versions it was based on. These may be placed in the "History" section. You may omit a network location for a work that was published at least four years before the Document itself, or if the original publisher of the version it refers to gives permission.

* K. For any section Entitled "Acknowledgements" or "Dedications", Preserve the Title of the section, and preserve in the section all the substance and tone of each of the contributor acknowledgements and/or dedications given therein.

* L. Preserve all the Invariant Sections of the Document, unaltered in their text and in their titles. Section numbers or the equivalent are not considered part of the section titles.

* M. Delete any section Entitled "Endorsements". Such a section may not be included in the Modified Version.

* N. Do not retitle any existing section to be Entitled "Endorsements" or to conflict in title with any Invariant Section.

* O. Preserve any Warranty Disclaimers.

If the Modified Version includes new front-matter sections or appendices that qualify as Secondary Sections and contain no material copied from the Document, you may at your option designate some or all of these sections as invariant. To do this, add their titles to the list of Invariant Sections in the Modified Version's license notice. These titles must be distinct from any other section titles.

You may add a section Entitled "Endorsements", provided it contains nothing but endorsements of your Modified Version by various parties--for example, statements of peer review or that the text has been approved by an organization as the authoritative definition of a standard.

You may add a passage of up to five words as a Front-Cover Text, and a passage of up to 25 words as a Back-Cover Text, to the end of the list of Cover Texts in the Modified Version. Only one passage of Front-Cover Text and one of Back-Cover Text may be added by (or through arrangements made by) any one entity. If the Document already includes a cover text for the same cover, previously added by you or by arrangement made by the same entity you are acting on behalf of, you may not add another; but you may replace the old one, on explicit permission from the previous publisher that added the old one.

The author(s) and publisher(s) of the Document do not by this License give permission to use their names for publicity for or to assert or imply endorsement of any Modified Version.

5. COMBINING DOCUMENTS

You may combine the Document with other documents released under this License, under the terms defined in section 4 above for modified versions, provided that you include in the combination all of the Invariant Sections of all of the original documents, unmodified, and list them all as Invariant Sections of your combined work in its license notice, and that you preserve all their Warranty Disclaimers.

The combined work need only contain one copy of this License, and multiple identical Invariant Sections may be replaced with a single copy. If there are multiple Invariant Sections with the same name but different contents, make the title of each such section unique by adding at the end of it, in parentheses, the name of the original author or publisher of that section if known, or else a unique number. Make the same adjustment to the section titles in the list of Invariant Sections in the license notice of the combined work.

In the combination, you must combine any sections Entitled "History" in the various original documents, forming one section Entitled "History"; likewise combine any sections Entitled "Acknowledgements", and any sections Entitled "Dedications". You must delete all sections Entitled "Endorsements."

6. COLLECTIONS OF DOCUMENTS

You may make a collection consisting of the Document and other documents released under this License, and replace the individual copies of this License in the various documents with a single copy that is included in the collection, provided that you follow the rules of this License for verbatim copying of each of the documents in all other respects.

You may extract a single document from such a collection, and distribute it individually under this License, provided you insert a copy of this License into the extracted document, and follow this License in all other respects regarding verbatim copying of that document.

7. AGGREGATION WITH INDEPENDENT WORKS

A compilation of the Document or its derivatives with other separate and independent documents or works, in or on a volume of a storage or distribution medium, is called an "aggregate" if the copyright resulting from the compilation is not used to limit the legal rights of the compilation's users beyond what the individual works permit. When the Document is included in an aggregate, this License does not apply to the other works in the aggregate which are not themselves derivative works of the Document.

If the Cover Text requirement of section 3 is applicable to these copies of the Document, then if the Document is less than one half of the entire aggregate, the Document's Cover Texts may be placed on covers that bracket the Document within the aggregate, or the electronic equivalent of covers if the Document is in electronic form. Otherwise they must appear on printed covers that bracket the whole aggregate.

8. TRANSLATION

Translation is considered a kind of modification, so you may distribute translations of the Document under the terms of section 4. Replacing Invariant Sections with translations requires special permission from their copyright holders, but you may include translations of some or all Invariant Sections in addition to the original versions of these Invariant Sections. You may include a translation of this License, and all the license notices in the Document, and any Warranty Disclaimers, provided that you also include the original English version of this License and the original versions of those notices and disclaimers. In case of a disagreement between the translation and the original version of this License or a notice or disclaimer, the original version will prevail.

If a section in the Document is Entitled "Acknowledgements", "Dedications", or "History", the requirement (section 4) to Preserve its Title (section 1) will typically require changing the actual title.

9. TERMINATION

You may not copy, modify, sublicense, or distribute the Document except as expressly provided for under this License. Any other attempt to copy, modify, sublicense or distribute the Document is void, and will automatically terminate your rights under this License. However, parties who have received copies, or rights, from you under this License will not have their licenses terminated so long as such parties remain in full compliance.

10. FUTURE REVISIONS OF THIS LICENSE

The Free Software Foundation may publish new, revised versions of the GNU Free Documentation License from time to time. Such new versions will be similar in spirit to the present version, but may differ in detail to address new problems or concerns. See <http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/>.

Each version of the License is given a distinguishing version number. If the Document specifies that a particular numbered version of this License "or any later version" applies to it, you have the option of following the terms and conditions either of that specified version or of any later version that has been published (not as a draft) by the Free Software Foundation. If the Document does not specify a version number of this License, you may choose any version ever published (not as a draft) by the Free Software Foundation.

Reading Assignments

- Optional:
 - Marshall, *New Testament Interpretation* 11-18.
 - Rise of historical-critical method, Berkhof, *Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics* 28-39.

1. The Nature of "Historical Critical Method"



Definitions

- Key term: “historical-critical.”
- To many scholars it mean careful research.
- Antisupernaturalism affects the mainstream.
- “Historical-critical” includes antisupernaturalism.

Definitions

- The key term is “historical-critical.”
- To many within the mainstream of scholarship, it connotes simply careful, controlled scholarly research.
- But since the Reformation a long history of antisupernaturalism affects this mainstream.
- At Westminster, “historical-critical” denotes the dominant framework of 19th and 20th century biblical research, including the presuppositions of an antisupernaturalistic worldview.

Antisupernaturalism

- Ernst Troeltsch's principles of historical investigation.
 - Criticism. Only probabilistic judgments.
 - Analogy. Present and past are alike.
 - Correlation. Closed continuum of causes.

History is brute fact, without miracle.



Common but
erroneous.

Antisupernaturalism

- Summarized in Ernst Troeltsch's view of principles of historical investigation.
 - Criticism. Only probabilistic judgments.
 - Analogy. Present and past are alike.
 - Correlation. Closed continuum of causes.

Assumes history is brute fact, without miracle.



Common but
erroneous.

Historicism

- “Historicism” is antisupernaturalism plus recording pure objective facts.



Historicism

- “Historicism” combines Troeltsch’s antisupernaturalism with the view that historians should record facts with pure objectivity.



Evaluation from *Lex Christi* Framework

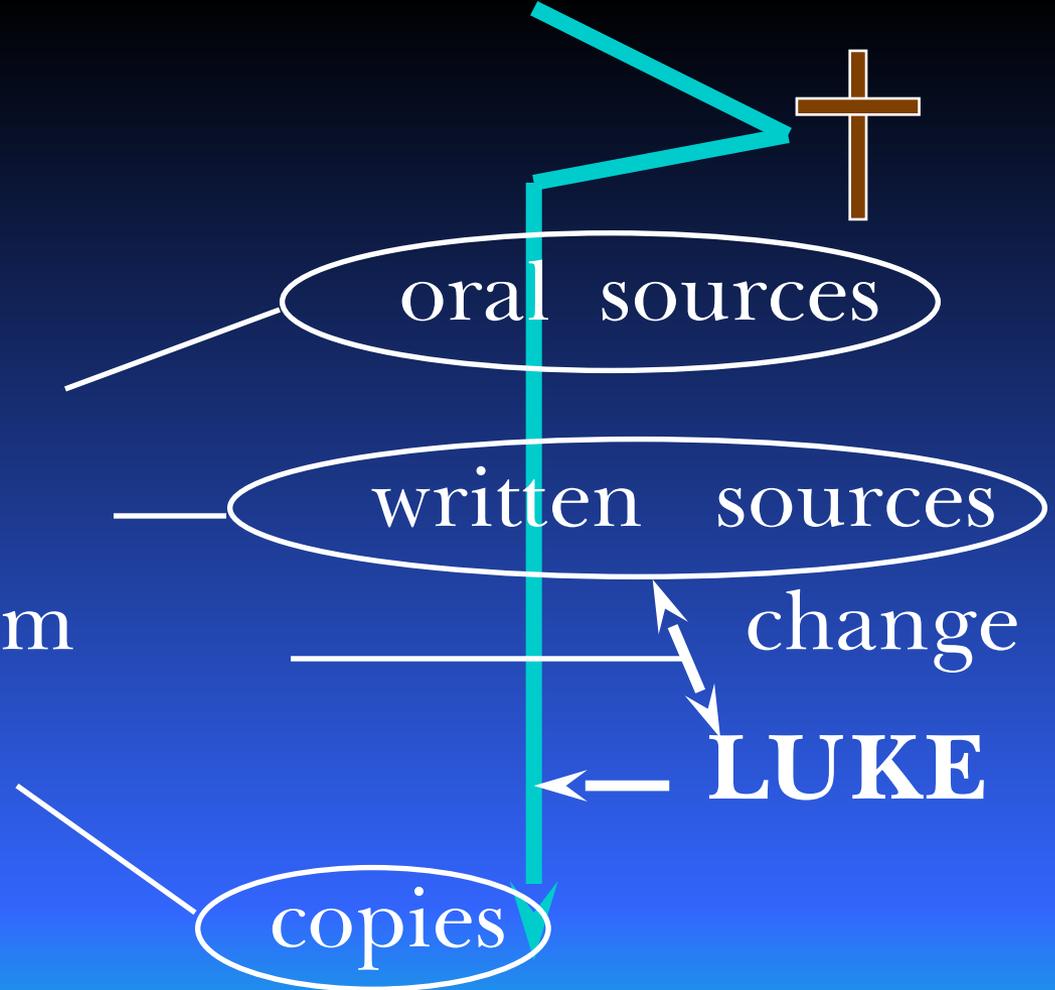
- Critical (antithesis): h-c method discounts divine work (4C) and divine presence (7C).
- Critical (antithesis) 2: critics may slander the orthodox, accusing them of naiveté and of being "unscientific."
- Positive points (common grace): h-c method asks for attentiveness to history (4C) and language (9C).

2. Tools from Historical-Critical Method



Main Critical Tools

- Form criticism
- Source criticism
- Redaction criticism
- Text criticism



Potential of Critical Tools

- Text criticism valuable for autograph.
- All others involve legitimate questions.
- Useful for apologetics.
- Reconstruct OT/NT environment (a contribution to “introduction”).

Potential of Critical Tools

- Text criticism is justified by our focus on the autograph.
- All others involve theoretically legitimate questions expressing human curiosity.
- Useful now and then for apologetics.
- Reconstruct OT/NT environment (a contribution to “introduction”).

Problems with Critical Tools

- Highly speculative.
- Skeptical because of antisupernaturalism.
- False principles of reconstruction.
- Even if they worked, so what?

Problems with Critical Tools

- Highly speculative.
- In practice, overly skeptical because of antisupernaturalism.
- In practice, using false principles of reconstruction.
- Even if they worked, would they pay off?
The meaning of a text is what it says, not the history of its origin.

Irrelevance of Sources

- The meaning of a text is what it says,
not the history of its origin.

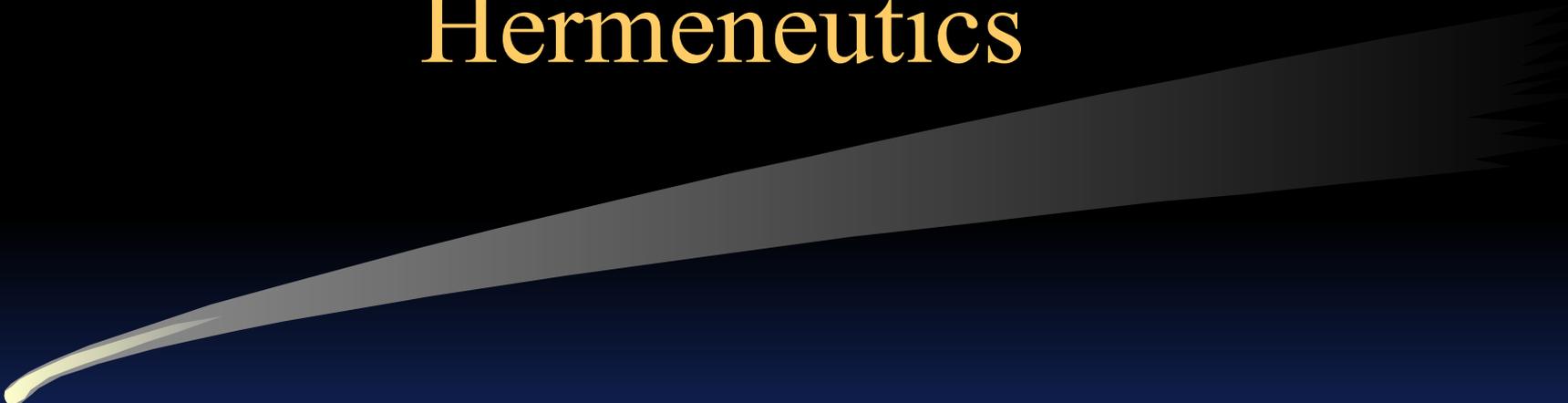
Read it!



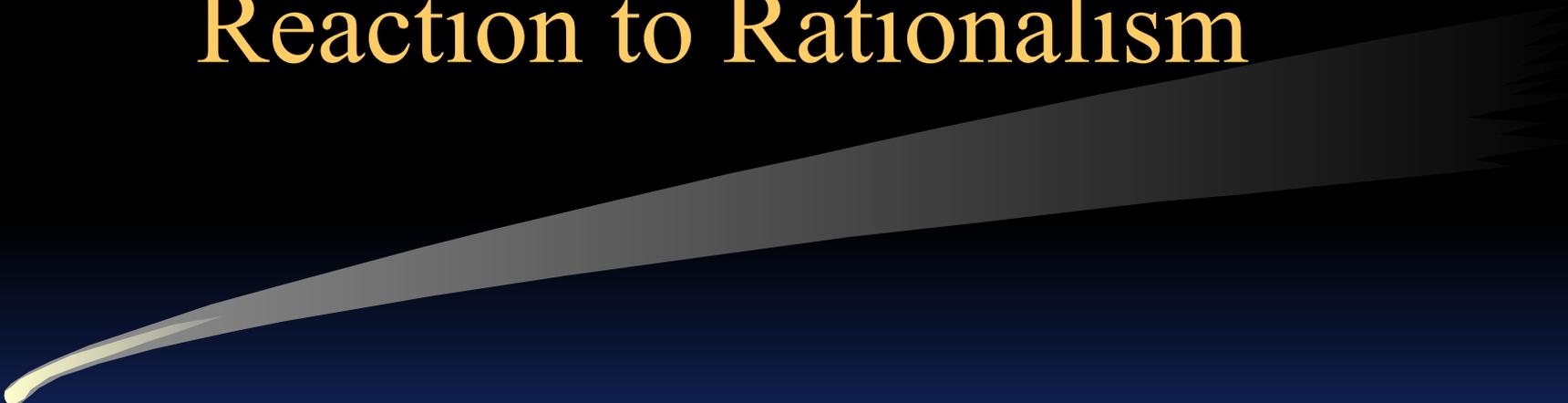
Implications of *Lex Christi*

2C implies we treat God's communication as holy, radically distinct from surrounding human communication (including noninspired sources or derivative texts).

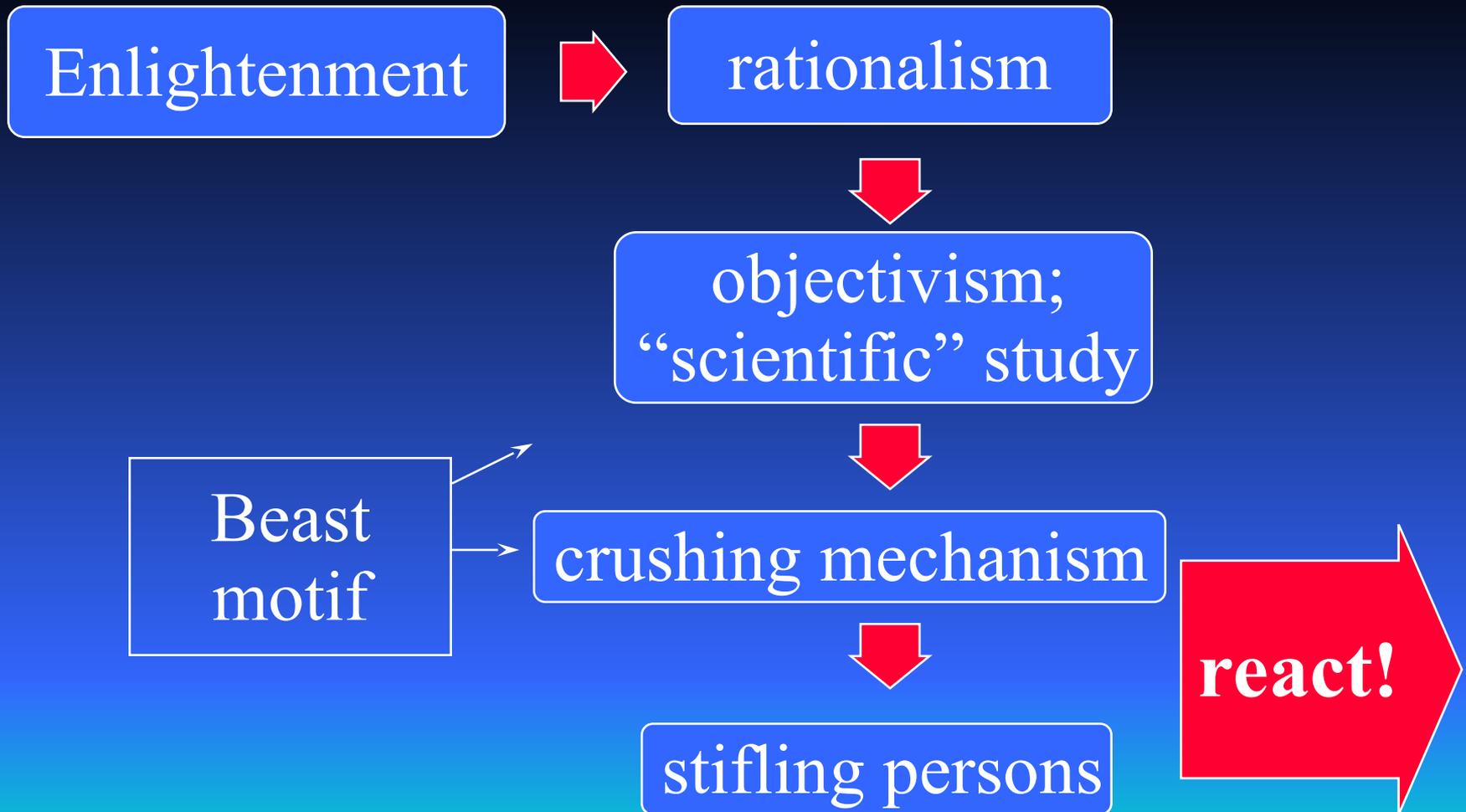
C. Situationist and Subjectivist Hermeneutics



1. The Motive: Reaction to Rationalism



The Road to Reaction



Modern Subjectivism

irrationalism;
Harlot motif

I am free (unrestrained), above law



free meaning:
reader creates

free ethics:
existential

free truth:
relativism

free
religion:
whatever
works

Sounds familiar.



2. Marxism

including liberation theology

Variations of Marxism

- Classic Marxism (Cuba)
- Theology of liberation
- Political correctness movement



Not yet dead.

Marxism as Compassionate and Zealous for Justice

- Looking for suffering minorities and socially and economically disadvantaged people
- Looking at ways in which the powerless are exploited by those in power

Marxism as Counterfeit

- Theology
- Sin
- Gospel
- Church
- Deliverance
- Consummation
- God
- Dialectical materialism
- Economic oppression
- Marxist call to workers
- Communist party
- Communist revolution
- Communist utopia
- Abstract laws of history; “humanity”

Marxist Biblical Interpretation

- Antithesis: “hermeneutic of suspicion” sees economic motives, not meaning.
 - Rejects opponents’ arguments a priori, because they have wrong motives.
- Common grace: impose Marxist motifs on all literature.

Marxist Biblical Interpretation

- Antithesis: “hermeneutic of suspicion” examines economic motives behind texts, rather than straightforward meaning.
 - Rejects opponents’ arguments a priori, because they have wrong motives.
- Common grace: impose Marxist motifs on all literature.

Marxist Epistemological Release

truths of history

blocked by ideology
(corporate “sin”)

illumination of
communist “gospel”



Now I can
critique
ideology.



Marxist Epistemological Dilemma

truths of history

universal ideology

supposed enlightenment
masks new oppression



Now I can
critique
ideology.



So I
can seize
control.

Marxist Ethical Satisfaction

- Alienation
- Meaninglessness
- Disorientation from multiple views
- Guilt over privilege
- Identification with a cause
- Purpose of “salvation”
- Exhilaration in superior understanding
- Righteousness in commitment to justice
 - righteousness by works

Watch out!



Ethical Bankruptcy

- Ultimacy of material universe (god).
- Any ethics?
- Historical law worthy of allegiance?
 - Fight against it, as existentialists?
- Man, chance protoplasm, worthy of allegiance?

Ethical Bankruptcy

- Ultimacy of material universe (god).
- So where do we get any ethics at all?
- Why should impersonal historical law be worthy of my allegiance?
 - Why not just as well fight against it, as existentialists propose to do?
- Why is man worthy of allegiance, if he is a chance product of protoplasm?

Theology of Liberation

- Finds liberation in the Bible.
- Marxism as tool for social ills.
- Biblical liberation for Marxist “sins.”
- Marxism distorts biblical teaching.
(find Marxist motifs anywhere).

Theology of Liberation

- Finds liberation motifs in the Bible.
- Uses Marxism as the fundamental tool for analyzing social ills.
- Applies biblical liberation to Marxist “sins.”
- In the process, Marxist counterfeits distort biblical teaching. As with generic Marxism, it can find Marxist motifs anywhere.

Political Correctness as Variation

- Analyze by gender, race, economic class.
- Restructure society to achieve righteousness.
- “Hermeneutics of suspicion.”
- Ethical self-righteousness.

Political Correctness as Variation

- Analyze people, movements, communication, etc., in terms of membership in social classes: gender, race, economic class
- Restructure society to achieve righteousness
- “Hermeneutics of suspicion”
- Ethical self-righteousness

3. Feminism



Feminism as Compassionate

- Concern for women's value and distinctiveness

Feminism Parallel to Correctness

- Specializes political correctness to gender.
- Analysis by classes of male and female.
- Deliverance through alteration of power.
- Appeals to compassion for the underdog.
- Evaluates texts for class motives.

Feminism Parallel to Correctness

- A specialization of political correctness to the issue of gender.
- Analysis by class membership, specifically now the classes of male and female.
- Deliverance through alteration of power relations.
- Appeals to compassion for the underdog.
- Evaluates texts on the basis of class motives.

Feminism as Counterfeit

- Theology
- Sin
- Gospel
- Church
- Deliverance
- Consummation
- God
- Egalitarianism
- Oppression of women
- Maleability of gender
- Egalitarians
- Remove past stereotypes
remove authority
- Universal freedom
- Humanity

4. Other critical frameworks

- Scientific sociology
- Critical sociology
 - Generic: morally committed
 - Critical theory
 - Critical race theory

5. Evaluation



Positive Aspects

- Identify some real sins.
- Unconscious sins and corporate sinful ideologies.
 - Sins against the weak unnoticed.
- Asks new questions:
notices new aspects.
- All are in God's image.

Positive Aspects

- Identify some real sins.
- Promote awareness of unconscious sins and corporate sinful ideologies, including what takes place among Christians.
 - Sins against the weak tend to go unnoticed.
- Asks new questions of texts and leads to noticing new aspects and new details.
- Egalitarianism feeds on the truth that all people are created in God's image and deserve respect.

Negative Aspects

- Misidentifies sin.
- False way of salvation.
- Reads what is not there.
- Rebels against differences:
age, personality, sex, wealth, skills, culture,
giftedness, and status in authority.

Negative Aspects

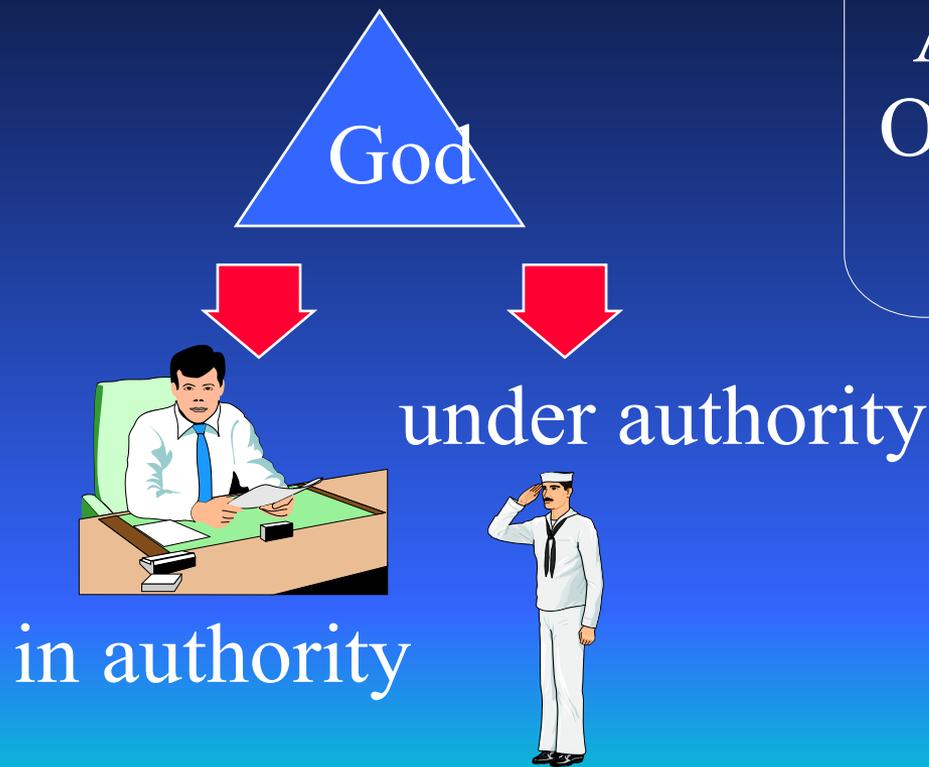
- Misidentifies some things as sin.
- Offers false, easy way of salvation.
- Can read into texts what is not there.
- Egalitarianism rebels against the many differences that God has ordained: age, personality, sex, wealth, skills, culture, giftedness, and status in authority.

Implications from *Lex Christi*

- Critical analysis (antithesis): 5C implies recognizing authority appointed by God; 8C implies recognizing property given and appointed by God.
- Critical (antithesis) 2: 9C: Marxism slanders people not belonging to the right class or way of thinking
- Positive point (common grace): 5C and 8C indicate the possibility of powerful people using power exploitatively.

Mystery of Differences

- Intellectuals deny nonrational difference.

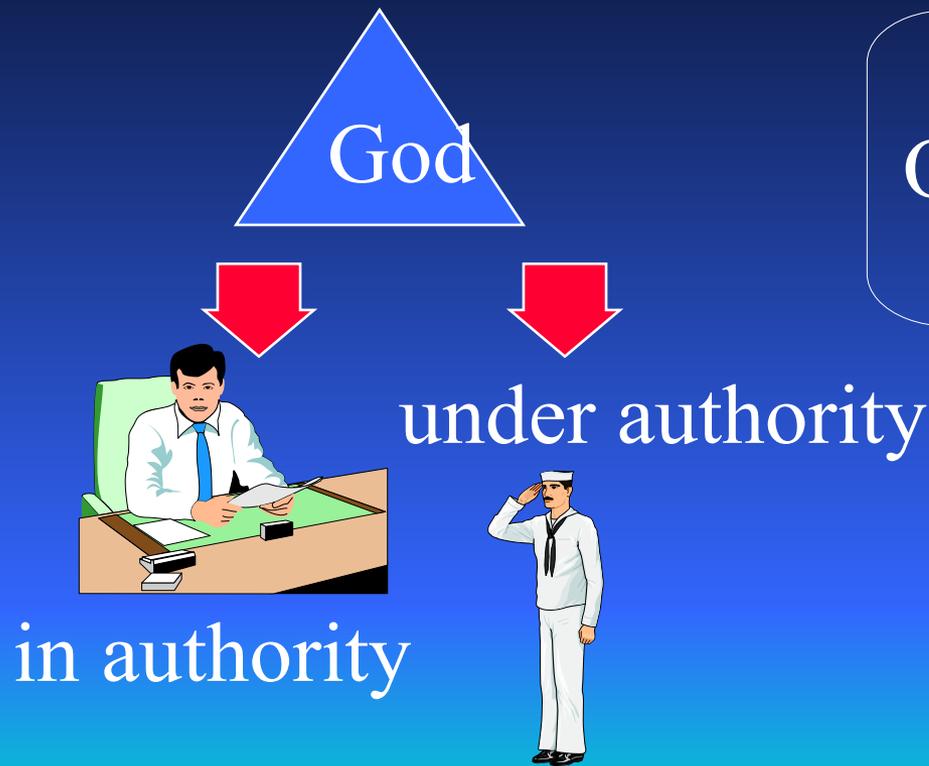


Arbitrary!
Oppressive!
Unjust!



Mystery of Differences

- Intellectuals lack a rational bottom for differences, and so want their disappearance.



Arbitrary!
Oppressive!
Unjust!



Appeal for Relief

- Everyone is guilty about sex and money.
- Everyone has been sinned against.
- Sin is deep, painful, and complex.
- Promise simple relief:
 - “Let us solve your problem.”

Tempting.



Appeal for Relief

- Everyone is guilty about sex and money.
- Everyone has been sinned against.
- Our entanglement with sin in these areas is deep, painful, and complex.
- Promises of simple relief are attractive.
 - “Let us, the elite, take the problem off your hands. Let the government decide who gets the money and who has what sexual privileges.”

Tempting.



Particular False Solutions

- Strong husbands dominate
- weak abdicate leadership.
- Strong wives push “rights”
- weak just conform.

Eph. 5:22-33 and Matt. 20:25-28 advocate Christ-like servanthood. Destroys selfishness.

Particular False Solutions

- Strong husbands dominate
- weak abdicate leadership.
- Strong wives push “rights”
- weak just conform.

Eph. 5:22-33 and Matt. 20:25-28 advocate being a servant after the model of Christ. This destroys the selfishness and idolatry in false solutions.

Breaking Chauvinism and Egalitarianism in the Family

God is Husband to Israel

Hosea



Christ is Husband to church

Eph. 5:23, 32



Husband is head in love

Eph. 5:22-33

marriage expresses
love, not domineering
or identity of roles

Breaking Chauvinism and Egalitarianism in the Church

God is Father to the Son



God is Father to saints



church is family of God 1 Tim. 3:15



family has fathers (elders)

1 Tim. 2:11-15; 3:1-7

God-centered
salvation.



family expresses
love, not
identity of roles

6. Postmodern Contextualism



Features of Contextualism

- Humans dependent on language and culture
- Inaccessible transcendent truth
- Solution to cultural conflicts by banishing dogmatism

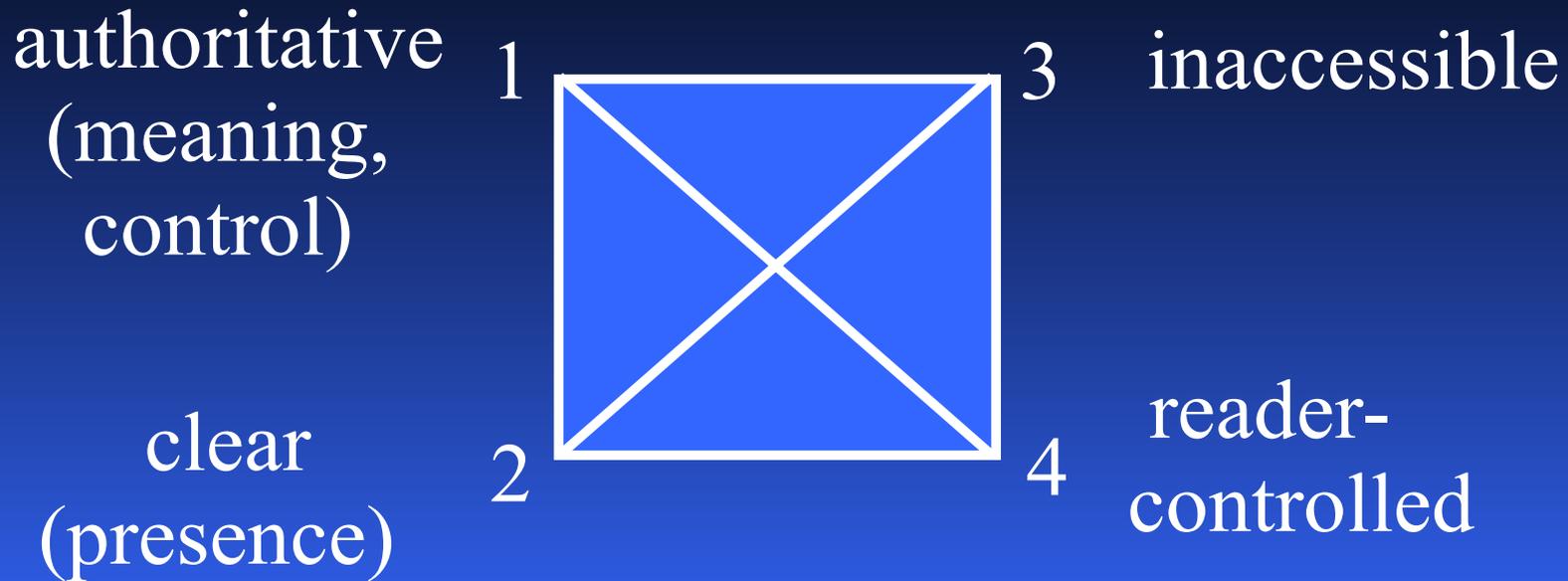
Features of Contextualism

- Humans dependent on language and culture: we think we know because of linguistic and cultural training
- Inaccessible transcendent truth: we experience reality only through the grid of language and culture
- Solution to cultural conflicts by banishing dogmatism

Positive Desires in Contextualism

- No snap judgments about others.
- No forced conformity for other individuals or cultures.
- Desire for freedom for differences.
- Relief from oppressive power.

Epistemology: Frame's Square for God's Word



Frame, *Doctrine of the Knowledge of God*, p. 14.

Postmodern Contextualism as Counterfeit

- Theology
- Sin
- Gospel
- Church
- Deliverance
- Consummation
- God
- Prison of finiteness
- Dogmatism
- Tolerance
- Postmodern gnostics
- Dogma demoted to opinion
- Universal peace
- Humanity

Evaluation

Positive

Notices:

- Finiteness
- Sin
- Corporate aspect
- Diversity in individuals and cultures

Negative

- God absent
- Sin excused as finiteness
- Individual free to create his own morality
- Clarity labeled dogmatism
- Authority labeled oppression

Implications from *Lex Christi*

Critical (antithesis): 1C, 2C: universality of divine truth and divine moral standards.

Critical (antithesis) #2: 9C: it is slander to accuse contrary views without evidence.

Positive point (common grace): 5C, 7C: influence of environment.

Central Challenge

modernism

- universal rationalism (one)
- human sameness
- oppression from reason

postmodern

- reason within local culture (many)
- human differences
- freedom to recreate man

Christian

- divine reason (one and many)
- same and different in the body
- freedom under God

D. Rationalistic Holistic Approaches

What is stirring in the academy
within the Enlightenment tradition?

Why?

- Desire for neutrality,
 - including not being obviously driven by political commitments
- Desire for recovering rich interpretation,
 - not merely the fragmentizing and existentially irrelevant ("boring") results of traditional historical/source criticism
- Desire for transcendence,
 - without the cost of surrender of person and will

Popular Approaches That Allow "Neutral" Scholarship

- Literary criticism
- Canonical criticism and theological interpretation
- Retrieval of patristic hermeneutics
- Prosopological exegesis
- "Literature," aesthetics, composition
- Treat the Bible as a single work (a church document)
- What did they do?
- Noticing voices of the persons of the Trinity

Possible for Evangelicals

- Treat text as whole
- Seems compatible with divine authorship
- Evangelicals can participate in the scholarly dialog
- But, as practiced in the academy, evades the divine voice as authoritative for the interpreter (change your life)

The Remaining Denial in "Neutral" Scholarship

- Bible as "literature"
- Bible as a single church document
- What did Fathers do?
- Notice voices of the persons of the Trinity
- Excise historical factuality, divine voice
- Not divine author; church, not God
- Study them at a distance (they believed divine word)
- They did. We study them and pretend.

Conclusion

- Much that is attractive
- A snare, because
- Tempts to "neutrality"
- Tempts to put the divine voice at a distance, virtually discounting it in favor of the human voices of a modern academic "project"
- Cursed for contempt of God--a subtle idol in letting the "program" displace God
- Remember 1C and prologue of 10 commandments