Canon & Scripture Formation Quiz

14 questions. Choose the best answer for each question. The answer key is on the last pages.

Name _____ Date _____ Score / 14

1. Which of the following was a reason why some books were disputed in the canon?

Ⓐ Unclear authorship
Ⓑ Too short
Ⓒ Too many copies
Ⓓ Written in Latin

2. Around what year is the Muratorian Fragment believed to have been written?

Ⓐ 170 AD
Ⓑ 300 AD
Ⓒ 400 AD
Ⓓ 250 AD

3. Which early Christian writing helped guide the church in recognizing the New Testament canon?

Ⓐ The Acts of Paul
Ⓑ The Gospel of Thomas
Ⓒ The Gospel of Judas
Ⓓ The writings of Irenaeus

4. Which criterion for canonicity refers to the use of a text by a wide number of churches?

Ⓐ Orthodoxy
Ⓑ Antiquity
Ⓒ Universality
Ⓓ Inspiration

5. Which council is traditionally associated with settling the New Testament canon?

Ⓐ Council of Nicaea
Ⓑ Council of Chalcedon
Ⓒ Council of Carthage
Ⓓ Council of Trent

6. Which book was considered disputed but later accepted into the canon?

Ⓐ Ephesians
Ⓑ Revelation
Ⓒ 1 Corinthians
Ⓓ Romans

7. Which criterion for canonicity emphasized the consistency of a book's teachings with accepted Christian doctrine?

Ⓐ Catholicity
Ⓑ Antiquity
Ⓒ Orthodoxy
Ⓓ Apostolicity

8. Approximately when was the Muratorian Fragment composed?

Ⓐ Early 1st century
Ⓑ Early 3rd century
Ⓒ Late 2nd century
Ⓓ 5th century

9. Which of the following was NOT a criterion for canonicity in the early church?

Ⓐ Apostolic origin
Ⓑ Alignment with Roman culture
Ⓒ Orthodox teaching
Ⓓ Widespread usage

10. What role did 'catholicity' play in determining the New Testament canon?

Ⓐ It meant the book was copied in Latin
Ⓑ It required books to be written by Roman Catholics
Ⓒ It was a requirement for books to be written in Greek
Ⓓ It referred to the universal acceptance and usage of a book

11. The Muratorian Fragment is significant because it is:

Ⓐ An early list of New Testament books
Ⓑ A letter from St. Paul
Ⓒ A decree by Emperor Constantine
Ⓓ A lost gospel

12. What was one of the primary criteria used by early church leaders to determine the canonicity of a New Testament book?

Ⓐ Apostolic authorship
Ⓑ Alignment with Roman laws
Ⓒ Popularity among believers
Ⓓ Length of the text

13. Which church father is known for his Easter Letter in 367 AD, which listed the 27 books of the New Testament as canonical?

Ⓐ Jerome
Ⓑ Origen
Ⓒ Athanasius
Ⓓ Augustine

14. Which of the following books was NOT among the Antilegomena, the disputed books of the New Testament?

Ⓐ 1 Thessalonians
Ⓑ James
Ⓒ 2 Peter
Ⓓ Hebrews

Answer key: Canon & Scripture Formation Quiz

Each answer has a short explanation and the Bible passage to read.

1. **A. Unclear authorship**

Books were often disputed based on factors such as unclear authorship or lack of widespread acceptance.

2. **A. 170 AD**

The Muratorian Fragment, an early list of New Testament books, is thought to have been compiled around 170 AD.

3. **D. The writings of Irenaeus**

The writings of church fathers and early Christian documents helped shape the discussion around the New Testament canon.

4. **C. Universality**

The criterion of universality ensured that a text was widely accepted and used across different Christian communities.

5. **C. Council of Carthage**

The Council of Carthage in 397 AD is often associated with the finalization of the New Testament canon.

6. **B. Revelation**

Books like Revelation faced initial skepticism but were eventually accepted as canonical.

7. **C. Orthodoxy**

Orthodoxy ensured that the teachings in a book aligned with the core beliefs of the Christian faith.

8. **C. Late 2nd century**

The Muratorian Fragment is generally dated to the late 2nd century, around 170-180 AD.

9. **B. Alignment with Roman culture**

The early church did not consider the alignment with Roman culture when determining canonicity.

10. **D. It referred to the universal acceptance and usage of a book**

Catholicity refers to the universal acceptance and usage of a book across the Christian community.

11. **A. An early list of New Testament books**

The Muratorian Fragment is one of the earliest lists of New Testament books, dating from the late 2nd century.

12. **A. Apostolic authorship**

Apostolic authorship was important because it linked the text directly to the teachings of Jesus and the early church.

13. **C. Athanasius**

Athanasius' Easter Letter is a pivotal document in the history of the New Testament canon.

14. **A. 1 Thessalonians**

The term 'Antilegomena' refers to books that were initially disputed before gaining acceptance into the New Testament canon.

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