



*The Question of Canon:
Challenging the Status Quo in
the New Testament Debate*

November 2013

\$24, 256 pages, paperback

978-0-8308-4031-1

Michael J. Kruger (PhD, University of Edinburgh) is president and professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is the author of several books, including *The Heresy of Orthodoxy* (coauthored with Andreas J. Köstenberger), *Gospel Fragments* (coauthored with Thomas Kraus and Tobias Nicklas) and *The Gospel of the Savior*. Kruger and his wife live in Charlotte with their three children.

michaeljkruger.com

Reframing the Question of Canon

Much scholarship on the formation of the canon known as the New Testament has focused on the “when” and the “how” questions: When did certain books become part of the canon and how were they selected? In *The Question of Canon*, however, New Testament scholar Michael J. Kruger takes up the “why” question, namely, why did Christians have a canon at all? And fundamentally attached to this question is another: Does the canon exist because of some later decision on the part of the second- or third-century church, or did it arise more naturally from the beginning of the Christian faith itself? In other words, is the development of the canon extrinsic or intrinsic to early Christianity?

“Our goal is not to deny the truth of the extrinsic model in its entirety, but to offer a well-intended corrective to its assessment and interpretation of some of the historical evidence,” Kruger notes in the introduction.

As opposed to serving up yet another standard introduction to canon, Kruger focuses on five tenets of the extrinsic model, offering an assessment of and response to each:

1. The Definition of Canon: Must We Make a Sharp Distinction Between the Definitions of *Canon* and *Scripture*?
2. The Origins of Canon: Was There Really Nothing in Early Christianity That May Have Led to a Canon?
3. The Writing of Canon: Were Early Christians Averse to Written Documents?
4. The Authors of Canon: Were the New Testament Authors Unaware of Their Own Authority?
5. The Date of Canon: Were the New Testament Books First Regarded as Scripture at the End of the Second Century?

 INTERVARSITY PRESS

Visit ivpress.com/media



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT:

Krista Carnet, broadcast publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kkcarnet@ivpress.com
 Alisse Wissman, print publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or awissman@ivpress.com
 Adrianna Wright, online publicity, at 800.843.4587 ext. 4096 or awright@ivpress.com
ivpress.com/academic