

## **Just Thinking Apologetics**

In considering the authenticity of the New Testament books a simple formula was used by the early Church. Three guidelines were established in order to determine if a book should be accepted.

The first guideline revolved around the point of apostolic authority. In other words, did an apostle or close associate who followed Jesus write the book? Some may say, “Wait a minute, Mark and Luke were not Apostles.” It is true they were not, but the Apostle Peter was a close associate of Mark and Paul was a close associate of Luke.

The second criterion is called the rule of faith. This criterion looked to see if the book in question matched with the basic teachings of Christianity. The third criterion focused on the church at large. Did the Church in general accept or deny a particular document.

Some books that are part of the New Testament were still being debated later in history concerning their canonicity such as, Hebrews, 2 Peter, James, 2 and 3 John, Jude and Revelation. Other books also were present in circulation, so why were they not accepted as opposed to the 27 we have in the New Testament? That is what we will discuss next. Again, if you have a question please feel free to write.