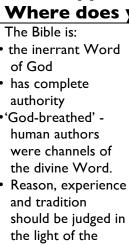
Towards an **inclusive** church

Seven approaches to using the Bible – where are you on the spectrum? Where does your balance of the quadrilateral of Bible – Tradition – Reason – Experience place you?





The Bible's teaching is entirely trustworthy. It cannot be expected, however, to provide entirely accurate scientific or historical information since this is not its purpose. Nevertheless, it provides the supreme rule for faith and conduct, to which other ways of 'knowing', while important, should be subordinate.



The quadrilate. The Bible is the essential foundation on which Christian faith and life are built. Its teachings were formed in particular historical and cultural contexts, and must therefore be read in that light. The way to apply biblical teaching in

today's very

Reason is an

different context is

not always obvious

or straightforward.

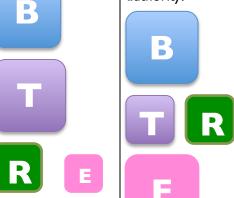
important (God-

given) gift which

must be used to the



The Bible's teaching, while foundational and authoritative for Christians, needs to be interpreted by the Church. In practice it is the interpretation and guidance offered by Church leaders and preachers which provides authoritative teaching. Church tradition is of high importance as a practical source of authority.



which conveys its

own compelling

authority.

The Bible is one of The Bible witnesses to God's the main ways in which God speaks revelation of himself through to the believer. However, the history and supremely through movement of God's Spirit is free and lesus Christ. unpredictable The Bible is not It is what the Spirit itself that is doing today that revelation, but is of the greatest only the witness to importance. The Bible helps to Christians must interpret therefore discern experience, but where and to what much stress is extent they placed on spiritual perceive the true experience itself, gospel witness in



the various voices

Reason, tradition

and experience are

of the Bible.

The Bible is a diverse and often contradictory collection of documents from various times and places.
The Christian's task is to follow the example of Christ.

example of Christ. However, in today's era it is simply not possible to obey all the Bible's teachings since these ...often represent the ideology of particular groups or classes in an ancient and foreign culture. Reason and experience provide much more important tools for faith and practice.



