

# EMMAUS EQUIPPING COLLEGE

## Grasping God's Word - Assignment 10

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### Assignment 10-1

**Explain the difference between *reader response* and *authorial intent*.**

***Reader response*** is where meaning is determined by the reader or by a community of readers.

Whereas ***authorial intent*** is where meaning is determined by the intention of the author.

### Assignment 10-2

**Why is the issue of *communication* important to the discussion of authorial intent?**

The issue of ***communication*** is important to the discussion of authorial intent as the connection between an author and an audience, where meaning is communicated by the author rather than created by the reader. Understanding this communication involves interpreting the text (words) within its original context, ensuring that the reader is receiving the intended message rather than projecting their own ideas onto the text. To understand what an author truly meant, the reader should view a text as a one-way conversation from the author to the reader. The author is the source so meaning comes from the person who wrote the text, not from the person reading them. Context matters so to get the message right, the reader must look at when and why it was originally written. The objective being that if the text is to be treated as a form of communication, the reader's responsibility is to find out the author's specific intent. The reader is not to "put words in the author's mouth". To truly understand what has been communicated, the reader needs to find the message the author actually sent, rather than the message the reader wants to hear.

### Assignment 10-3

**Discuss several situations whereby a reader may intentionally change an author's intended meaning.**

Readers may intentionally change the author's intended meaning to serve personal agendas, support ideologies or justify actions which contradict the author's intent. Readers sometimes "twist" the author's intended meaning to fit/defend what they already believe (traditional religious beliefs). Readers may manipulate an author's intent to fit existing cultural/social standards and expectations (presentism or making a text coeval) often resulting in a distorted understanding. Readers also misinterpret text simply out of ignorance due to a lack of diligent study of the author's text, disregarding historical, cultural, or literary context, overlooking the ancient customs and laws that give words their true meaning and paying little attention to who the author was writing to and why.

**END**