

# EMMAUS EQUIPPING

## *COLLEGE BIBLE CLASSES*

### Assignment 10

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# Assignment 10-1

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

**Reader response** means interpreting the scriptures based on what it means to the reader personally. The reader is the one who determines meaning, potentially without consideration of the author's original intent. This results in a very personal, yet subjective interpretation.

**Authorial intent** seeks for the meaning God intended to communicate.

Both are required to induce personal spiritual growth, using the process:

1. Firstly, identify an objective message of *authorial intent*.
2. Then, ask the subjective *reader response* - how does this apply to me?

## Reader response vs Authorial intent

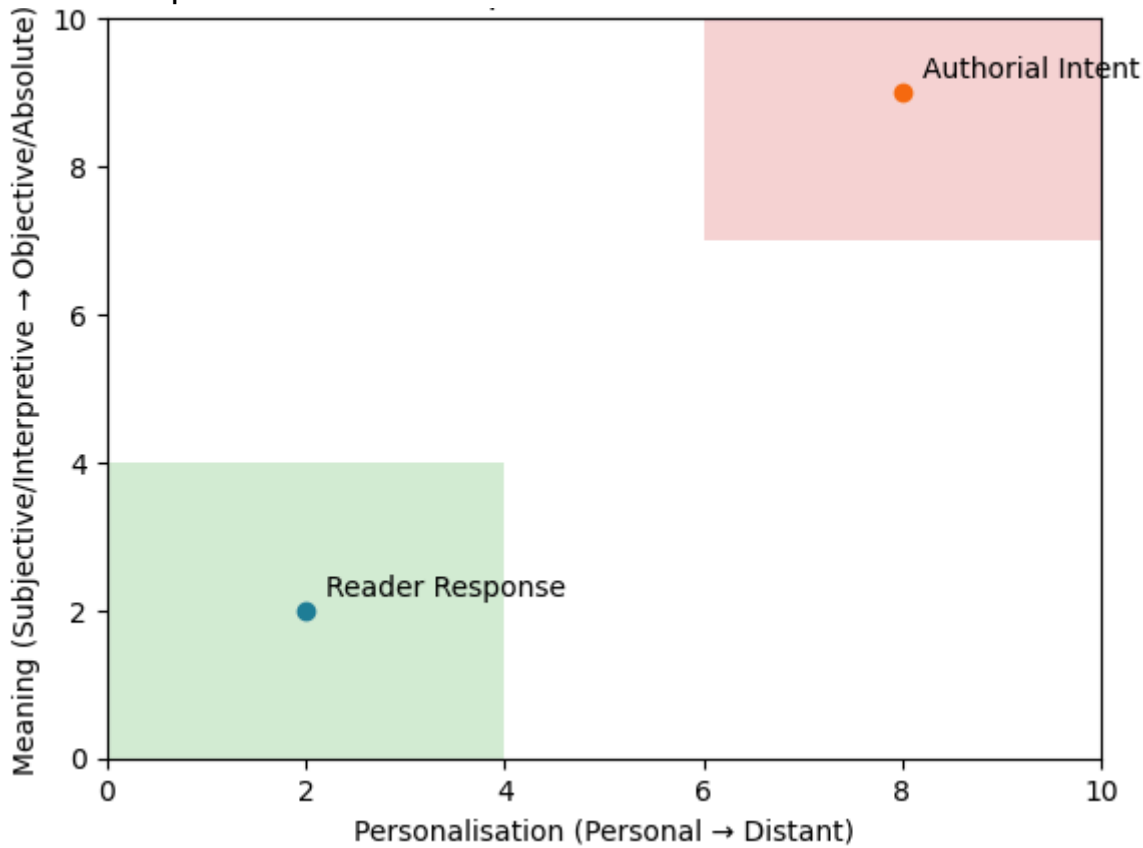


Figure 1: Reader response vs Authorial intent

## Comparison Factors

	Reader Response	Authorial Intent
Question	What does this mean to me?	What does the author mean?
Personalisation	Personal	Distant
Interpretation	Subjective	Objective
Meaning	Interpretive	Absolute

Table 1: Distinguishing perspectives

## Assignment 10-2

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

Communication assumes the author has a message for the reader. If the reader imbues their own perspective, then it diminishes the purpose of the author in place of their own thoughts, interpretation, bias and belief. This dilutes, if not destroys truth and authority.

Since scripture is God speaking, authorial intent is essential.

## Assignment 10-3

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

If one reverses the two step process outlined in Q10.1 and puts their intent first, followed by the authors, then the result is a reader-created meaning rather than a faithful objective understanding. This introduces multiple interpretations based on the reader's perspective.

Hence different conclusions and beliefs are created.

This could happen for multiple reasons such as to justify one's personal beliefs/behaviour in order to avoid conviction or accountability.

- ★ Using the process of **Author** → **Reader**, is to genuinely seek God's message and then apply it in a pragmatic way to my life.
- ★ Using the process of **Reader** → **Author**, is to focus on my own beliefs, then look for scripture to justify it.