

# Can We Trust the New Testament?

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*Scripture reveals the God “who is \_\_\_\_\_ about His relationship with you”  
(Exodus 34:14)*

## I. The Reliability of the New Testament. Three Key tests:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Test
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Test
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Test

## II. HONESTY TEST

A. The *Honesty Test*: Does the document claim to be reporting \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. The benefit of the doubt is given to the \_\_\_\_\_ itself.

B. Biblical Examples:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Does the document contain \_\_\_\_\_ material

a. Biblical Examples:

1. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (Mark 14:70)
2. Jesus calls Peter \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 16:23)
3. James and John want to \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus (Mk. 10:32-43)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ don't understand the teachings of Jesus (Mk. 4:1-12)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ discover the empty tomb (John 20)

## III. TELEPHONE TEST

A. The *Telephone Test* examines if the \_\_\_\_\_ have reached us accurately.

- a. What is the \_\_\_\_\_ gap between the original copies and the copies we have today?

1. Pliny the Younger: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Caesar: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Plato: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. NEW TESTAMENT: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. How many \_\_\_\_\_ do we have?
1. Caesar: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Plato: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Tacitus: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. NEW TESTAMENT: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. The #2 book in history: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Early Church Fathers:**

- a. Early Church Fathers quote the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. Because these early church fathers quoted the New Testament so much, all but \_\_\_\_\_ verses of the New Testament can be reconstructed just from their quotations.

**IV. CORROBORATION TEST**

- A. *Key Question:* Do other historical materials confirm or deny the testimony provided by the document themselves?
- B. Early Non-Christian writers:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Christian writers mention Jesus within 150 years of his death—\_\_\_\_\_ total.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ sources mention the military conquests of Julius Caesar.
  - c. Tiberius Caesar has \_\_\_\_\_ sources mention him within 150 years of his death.
- C. Archaeological Finds:
  - a. An inscription of \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The Pool of \_\_\_\_\_ (John 5:2)
  - c. The body of \_\_\_\_\_ (1968)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCE: **More Than A Carpenter** by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell (Tyndale Publishers, 2009).

