

# convergence leadership project: biblical competencies

## module 11



# THE GREAT SPIRITUAL MIGRATION

# A spiritual migration

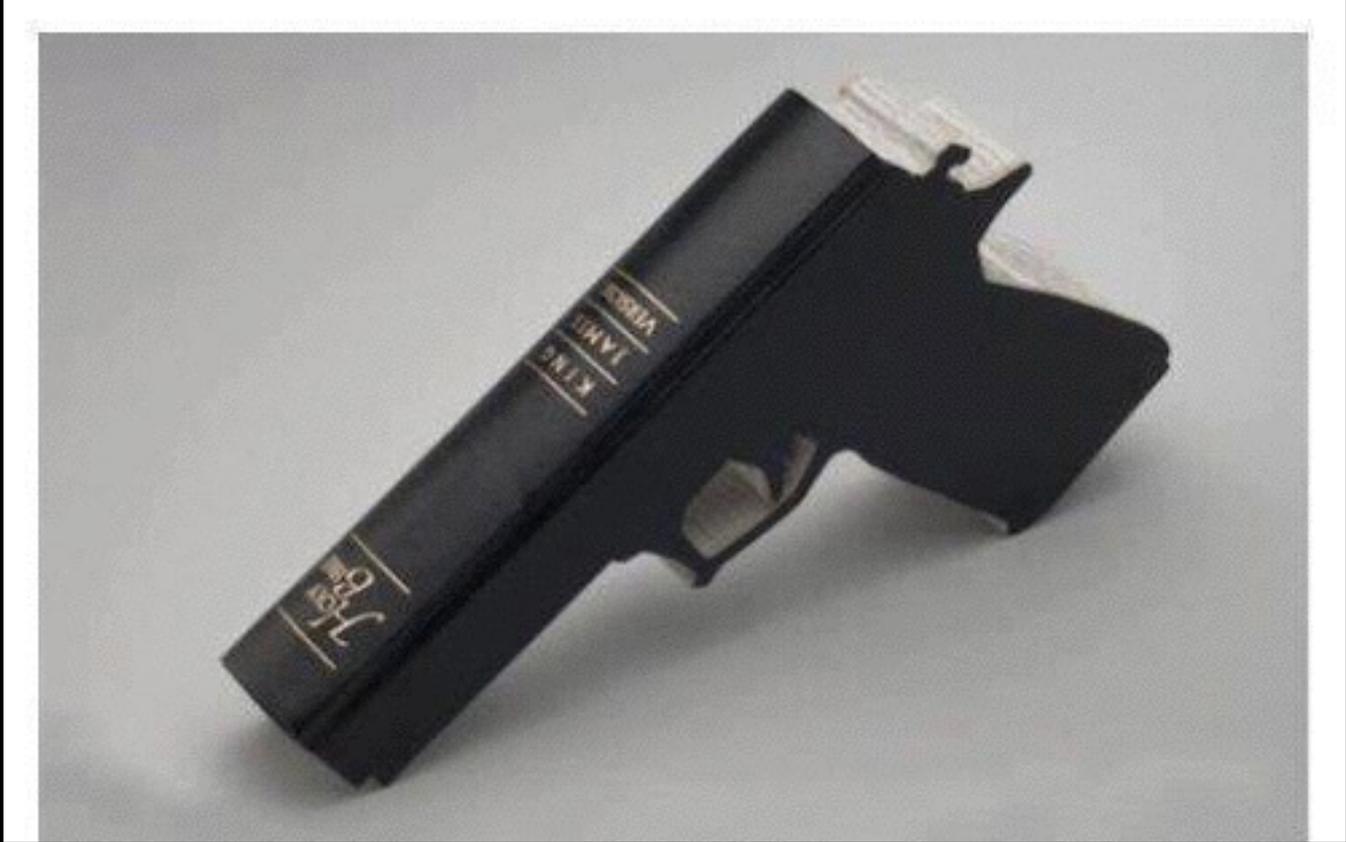
from system of belief to way of life/  
way of love



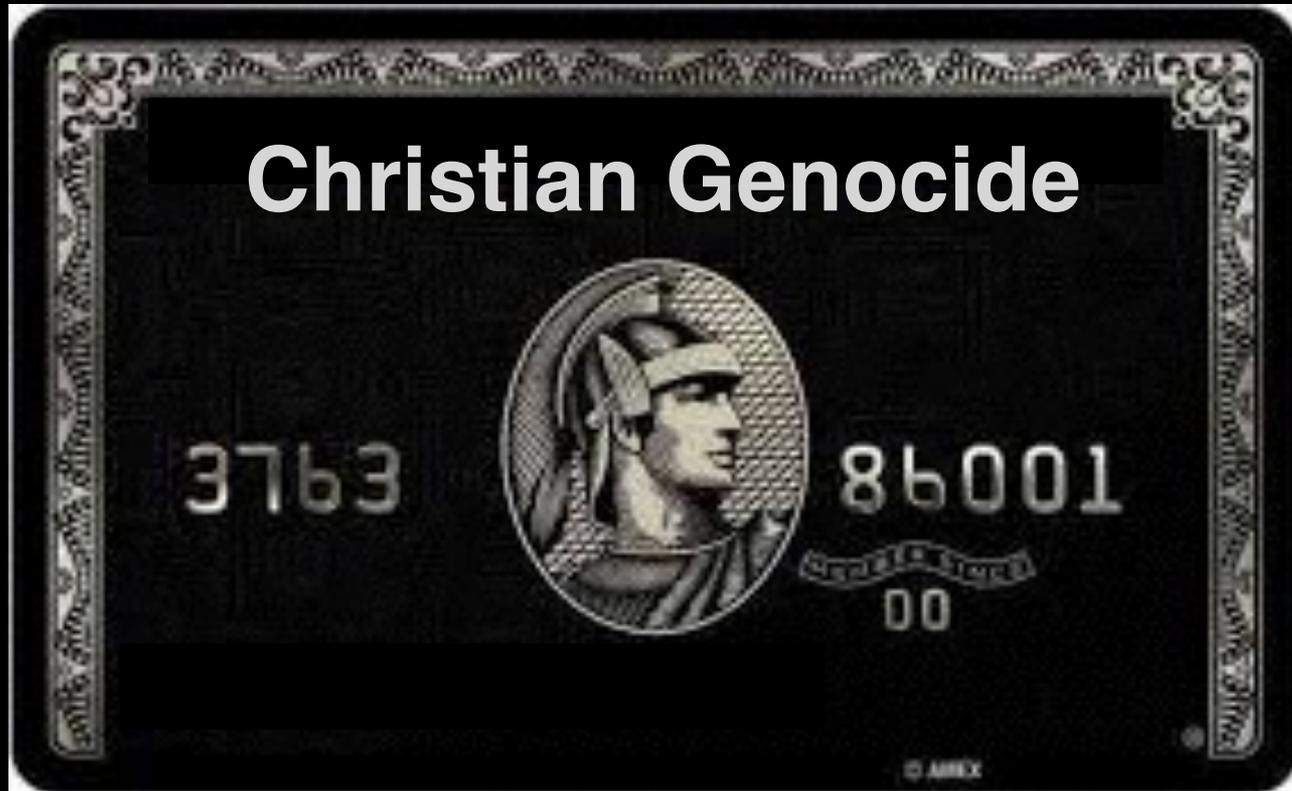
A theological migration

from violent supreme being  
to nonviolent Spirit of Jesus





The genocide card in your back pocket



## The history we don't tell ourselves

1st - 2nd Century: Anti-semitism

2nd - 3rd Century: Suppression of women

4th Century: Conversion of/by Constantine

Multiple Centuries: Burning of witches

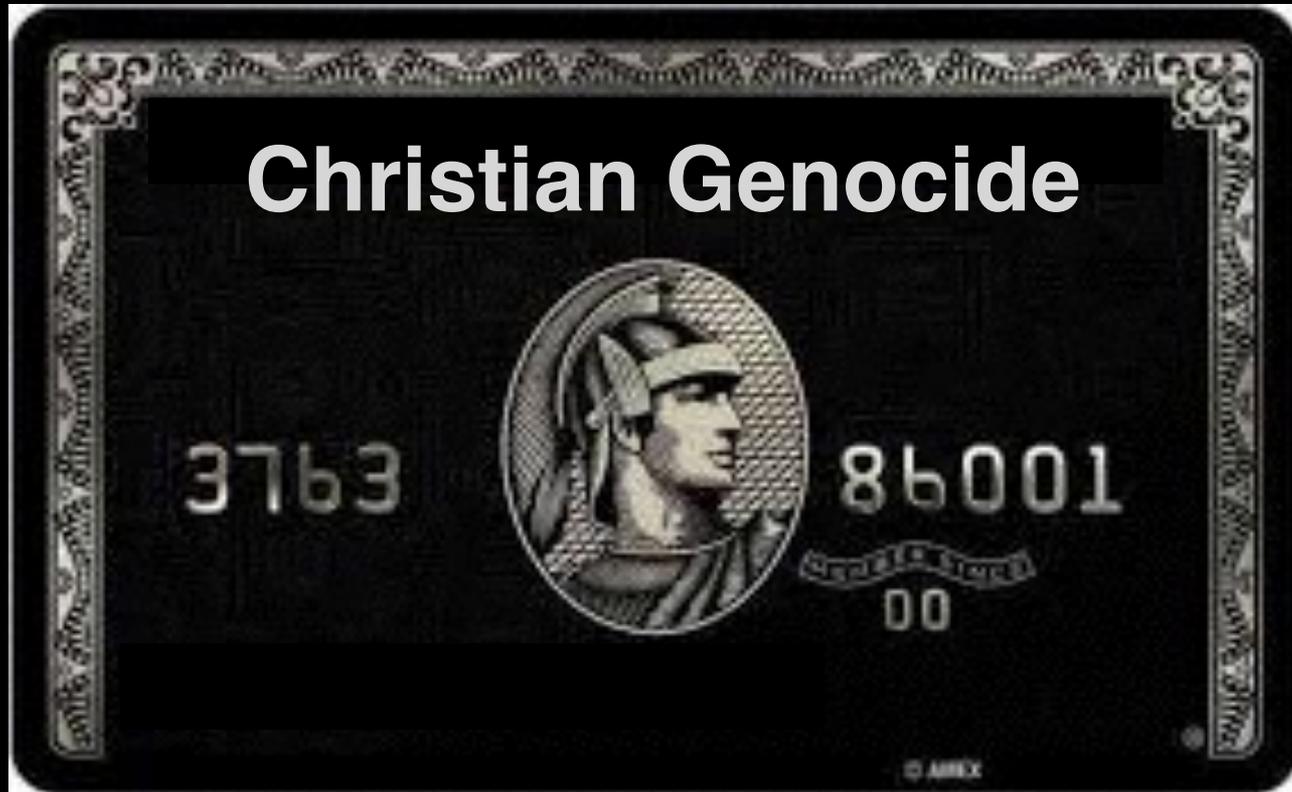
Multiple Centuries: Crusades

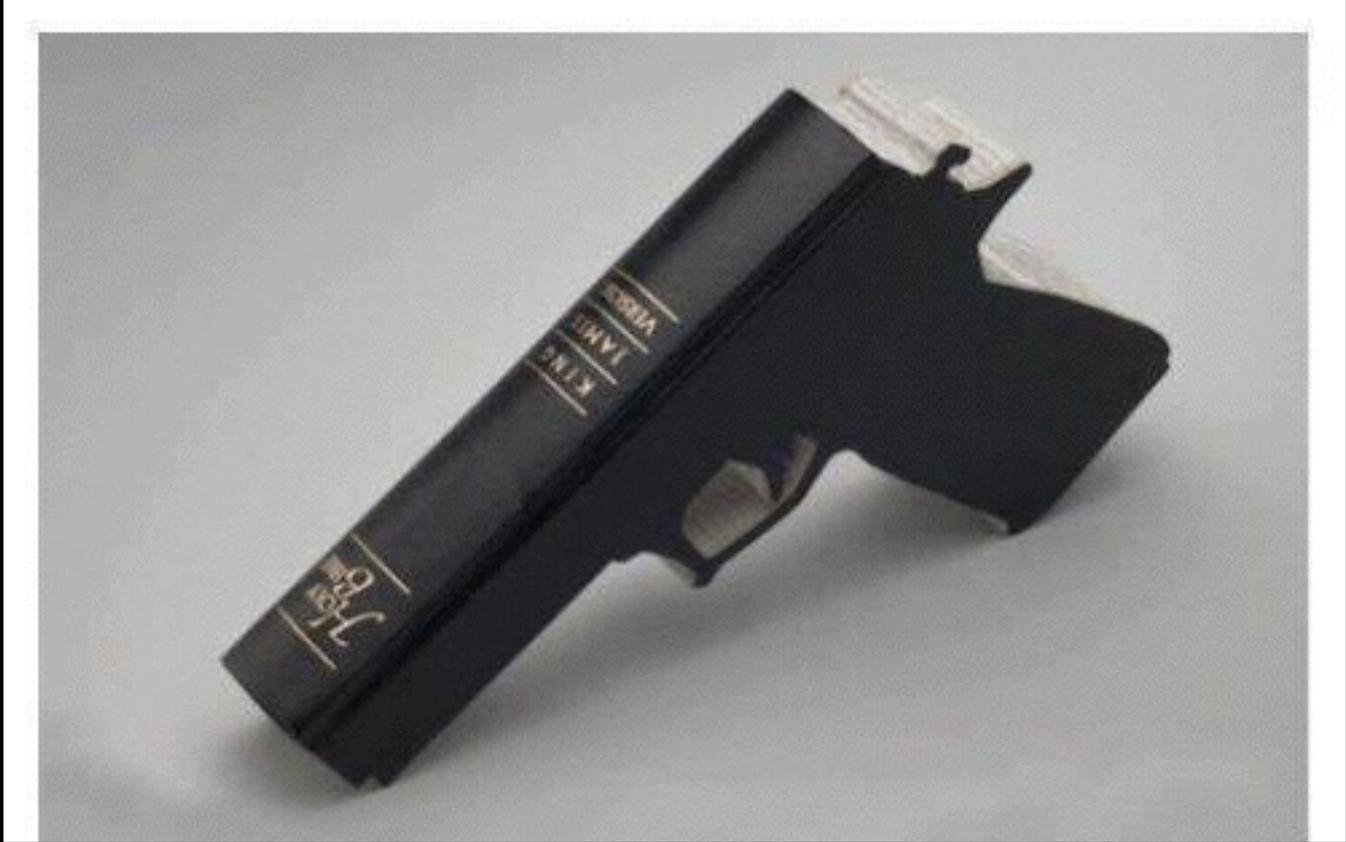
15th Century: Doctrine of Discovery

16th - 19th Centuries: Global Conquest & Colonization/Genocide  
of Native Peoples/African Slave Trade

All of which were supported by interpretations of Scripture.

It's time to disarm our understanding of God  
and cut up the genocide card





# How to Read the Bible: 6 Options

*(beyond liberal and conservative)*

Literal:

Like a newspaper, science text, or work of nonfiction - attempting to tell objective, literal, observable, scientific facts.



Literary:

Like a poem, novel, journal, or movie - attempting to convey meaningful, mysterious, multi-faceted beauty and truth.

Post-Critical/Integral:

Seen as a whole, with internal tensions, with potential for instruction, inspiration, even revelation.



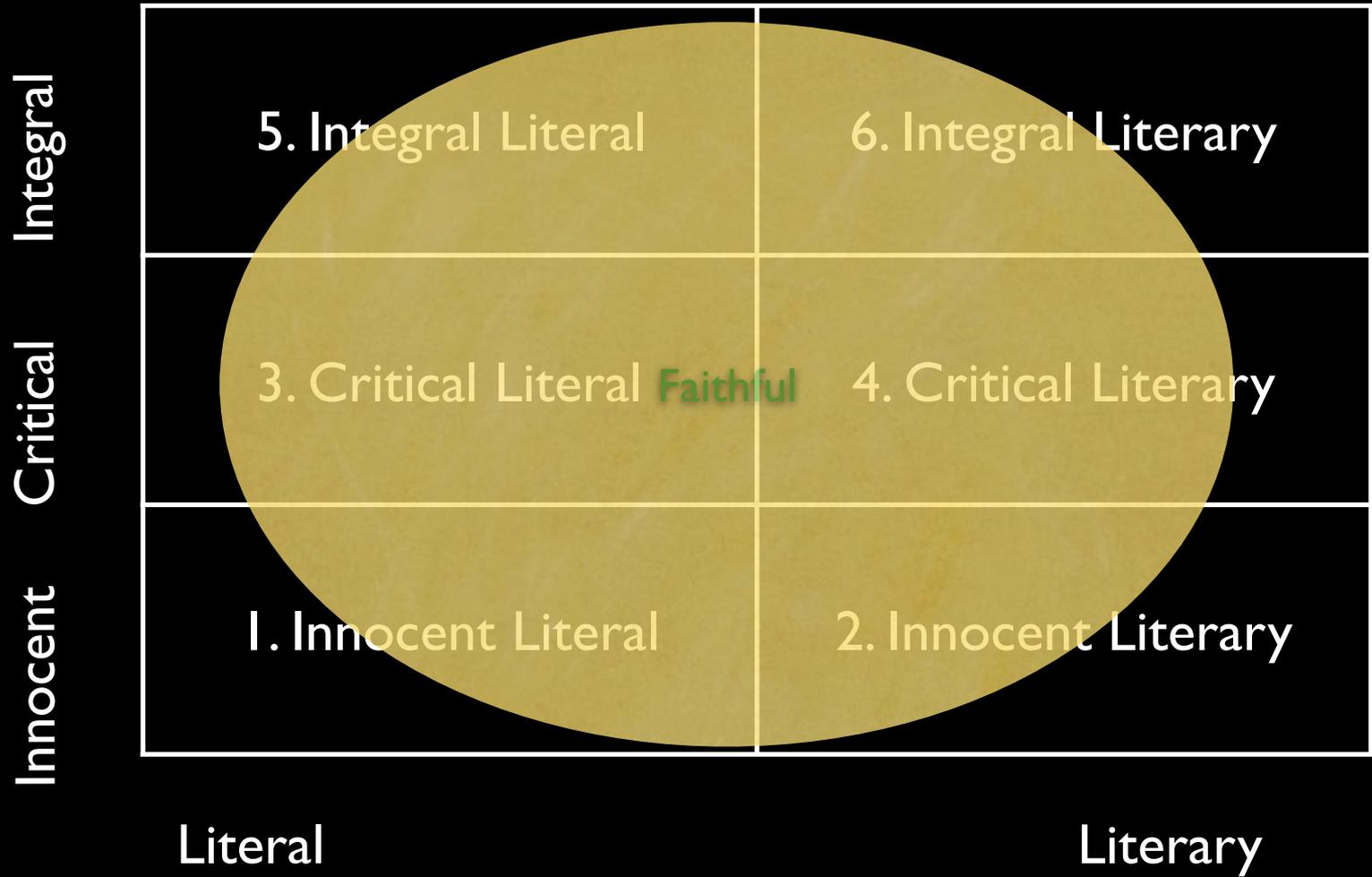
Critical:

Questioned. Tested. Scrutinized. Evaluated. Treated as human, situated, constructed, and interpreted.

Innocent:

Taken at face value. Unquestioned. Univocal. Treated as divine, transcendent, incorrigible, or absolute.

Integral	5. Integral Literal	6. Integral Literary
Critical	3. Critical Literal	4. Critical Literary
Innocent	1. Innocent Literal	2. Innocent Literary
	Literal	Literary



## Option 1: Innocent Literal

The Bible is a divine text, akin to a

Textbook  
Instruction manual  
Objective historical account  
Audit report  
Constitution

that states simple & clear facts about the universe and  
God and ourselves.

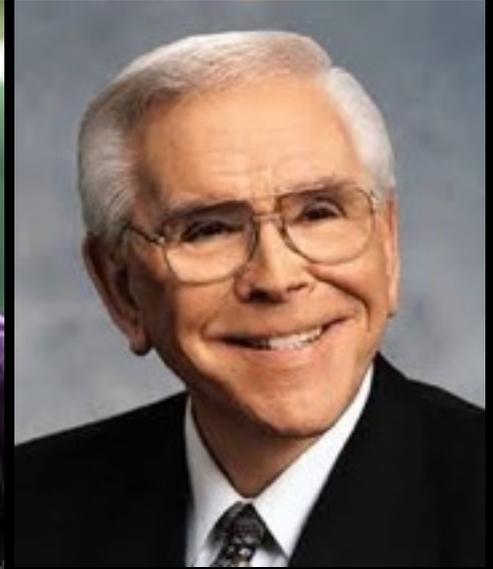


## Option 2: Innocent Literary

The Bible is a collection of literary artifacts, akin to ...

an anthology of moralistic fables  
a collection of magic chants or mantras  
a source of inspiring stories and quotations

through which we may gain personal inspiration, personal guidance, and/or experiences of mystical revelation.



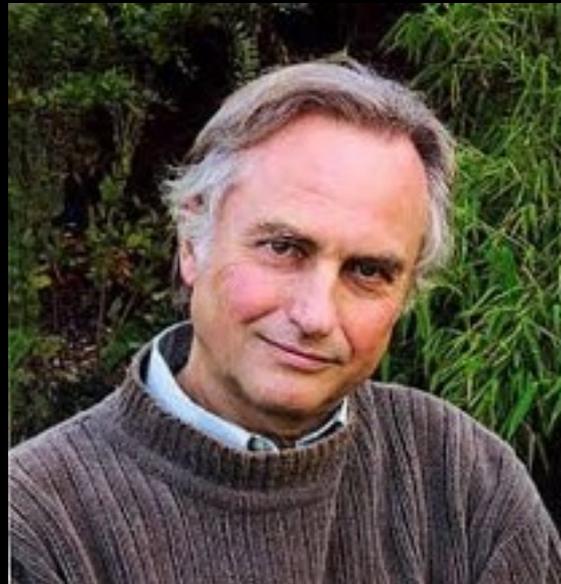
Level I readings are easily used  
to justify hostility, oppression, and atrocities.

## Option 3: Critical Literal

The Bible is a human text, akin to

a collection of myths  
a collection of folk tales  
a collection of propaganda  
a collection of misinformation

that contains many falsehoods and disprovable assertions.



## Option 4: Critical Literary

The Bible is a collection of human literary artifacts, akin to

- a museum
- an heirloom quilt
- a family scrapbook or photo album
- a refrigerator door or classroom bulletin board
- a specialized library

through which we may gain insight into the cultures and minds that produced them.

Level 2 readings reduce hostility  
by reducing confidence in the Bible.

## Option 5: Integral Literal

The Bible is a collection of human literary artifacts, akin to ...

a collection of myths

a collection of folk tales

a collection of propaganda

a collection of misinformation

through which we may learn facts about the views of original authors and audiences, and which may provide a mirror to better understand our species' evolution.

## Option 6: Integral Literary

The Bible is a collection of human literary artifacts, akin to

a museum

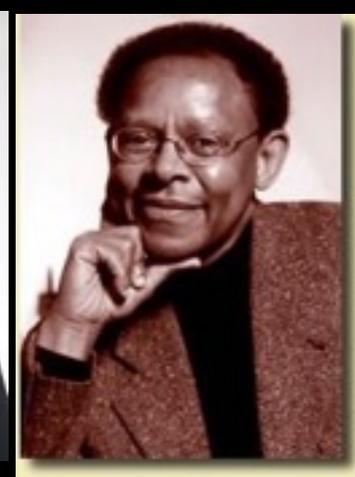
an heirloom quilt

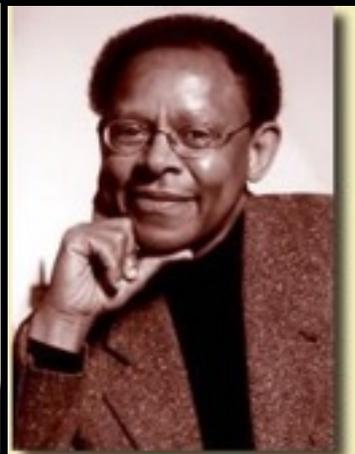
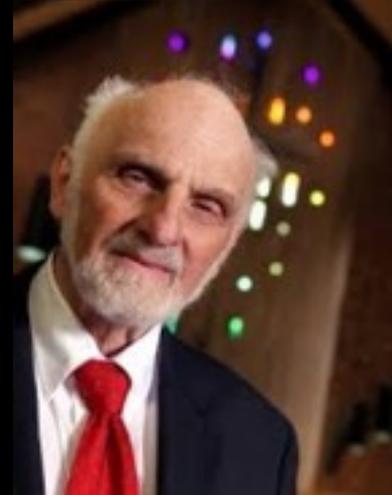
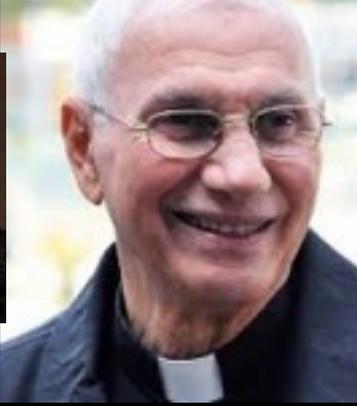
a family scrapbook or photo album

a refrigerator door

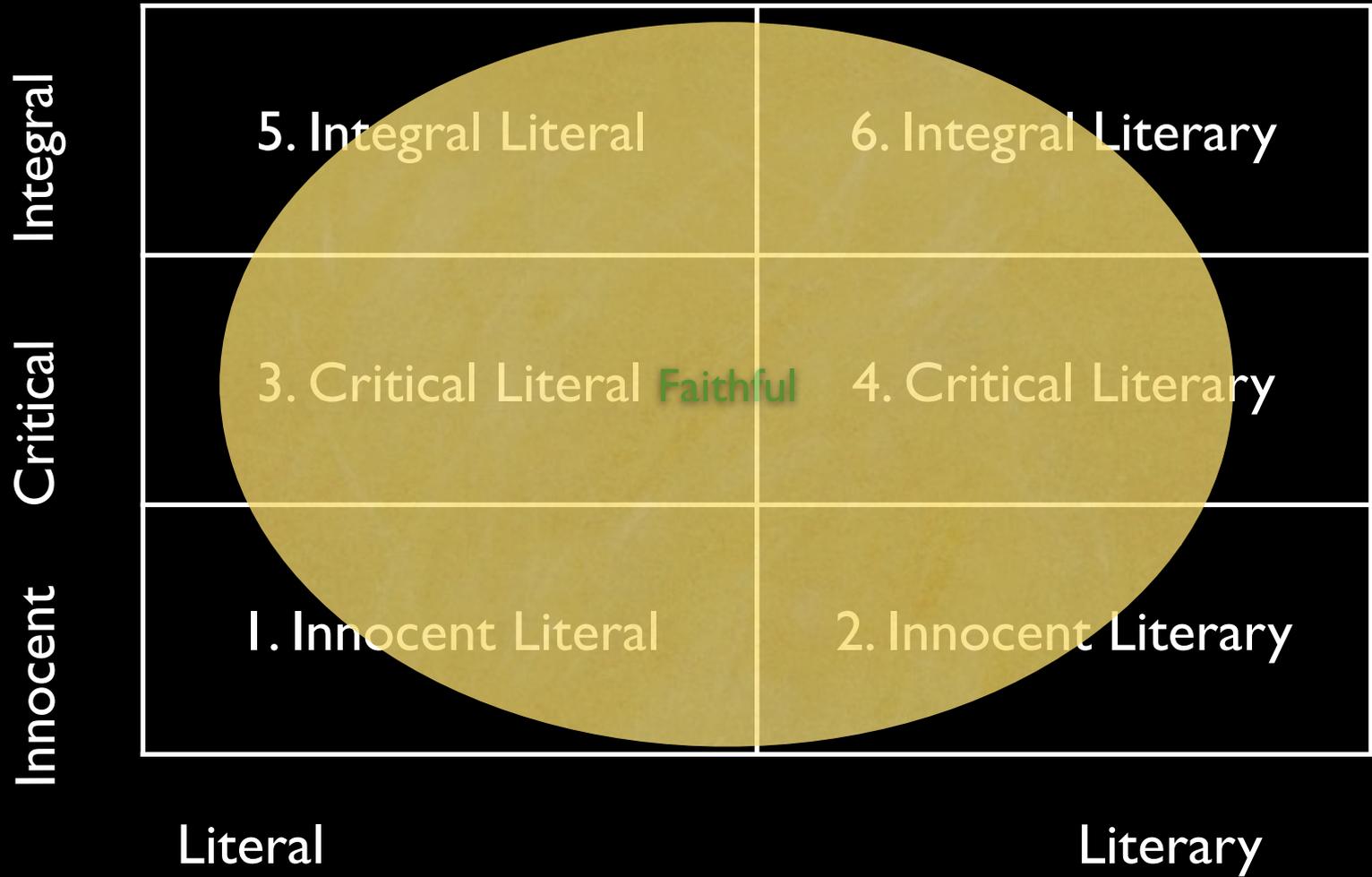
a specialized library

through which we can gain vital wisdom about the past  
and through which we can discover meaning for our lives  
today.





Level 3 readings re-introduce the Bible as a  
treasure and gift,  
moving beyond fundamentalism and skepticism,  
rendering us open to God's meaning for us today.



## Why Integral Literary?

1. Takes the text seriously
2. Takes art of interpretation seriously
3. Takes humans seriously (producers/readers)
4. Takes God seriously
5. Takes Jesus seriously
6. Takes the Spirit seriously
7. Takes the living tradition seriously
8. Takes both liberal and conservative concerns seriously
9. Focuses on meaning (actuality) that transcends factuality
10. Addresses our moral, ethical, and spiritual predicament as living human beings.

## How do we teach an Integral Literary?

1. Don't call it that.
2. Don't attack other views or those who hold them.
3. Show the richness that the text yields with this approach - through great preaching, writing, studying, etc.

