

THE INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXTS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. Please read pages 41-51 in *Introducing the New Testament*
2. How do the authors define *legitimization* and why is this important for our reading of the New Testament?
3. What was the Temple's legitimating function? How did the Temple define holiness and purity and how did that effect social relations in the NT world?
4. What was Scripture's legitimating function? How did the purpose of God behind the Scriptures affect the status of people in the NT world?
5. What was the legitimating role of kinship in Jesus' day?
6. What was the legitimating role of reciprocity in the NT world? What were the two types of reciprocity?
7. What was the patronage system? How was this system connected to the divine?
8. Please read the following passages from the Gospel of John. How has your reading helped you to understand these passages contextually?

- John 2:13-22 (Issue of the Temple)
- John 15:12-16 (Issue of Friendship)
- John 8:48-49 (Issue of Honor)