



# What's in the Word: Rethinking the Socio-Rhetorical Character of the New Testament

*Ben Witherington III*

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**What's in the Word: Rethinking the Socio-Rhetorical Character of the New Testament** Ben Witherington III

Written in clear, and at times colorful, prose, Ben Witherington's *What's in the Word* explains how the recognition of the oral and socio-rhetorical character of the New Testament and its environment necessitates a change in how the New Testament literature is read. Expanding on the work in which he has been fruitfully engaged for over a quarter century, Witherington challenges the previously assured results of historical criticism and demonstrates chapter by chapter how the socio-rhetorical study shifts the paradigm.

Taken together, the chapters in *What's in the Word* coalesce around three of Witherington's ongoing academic concerns: orality and rhetoric; New Testament history, including issues of authenticity and canonicity; and the exegesis of given words in their canonical and socio-cultural contexts. Always unpredictable, this book never fails to pique interest and proffer instruction.



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