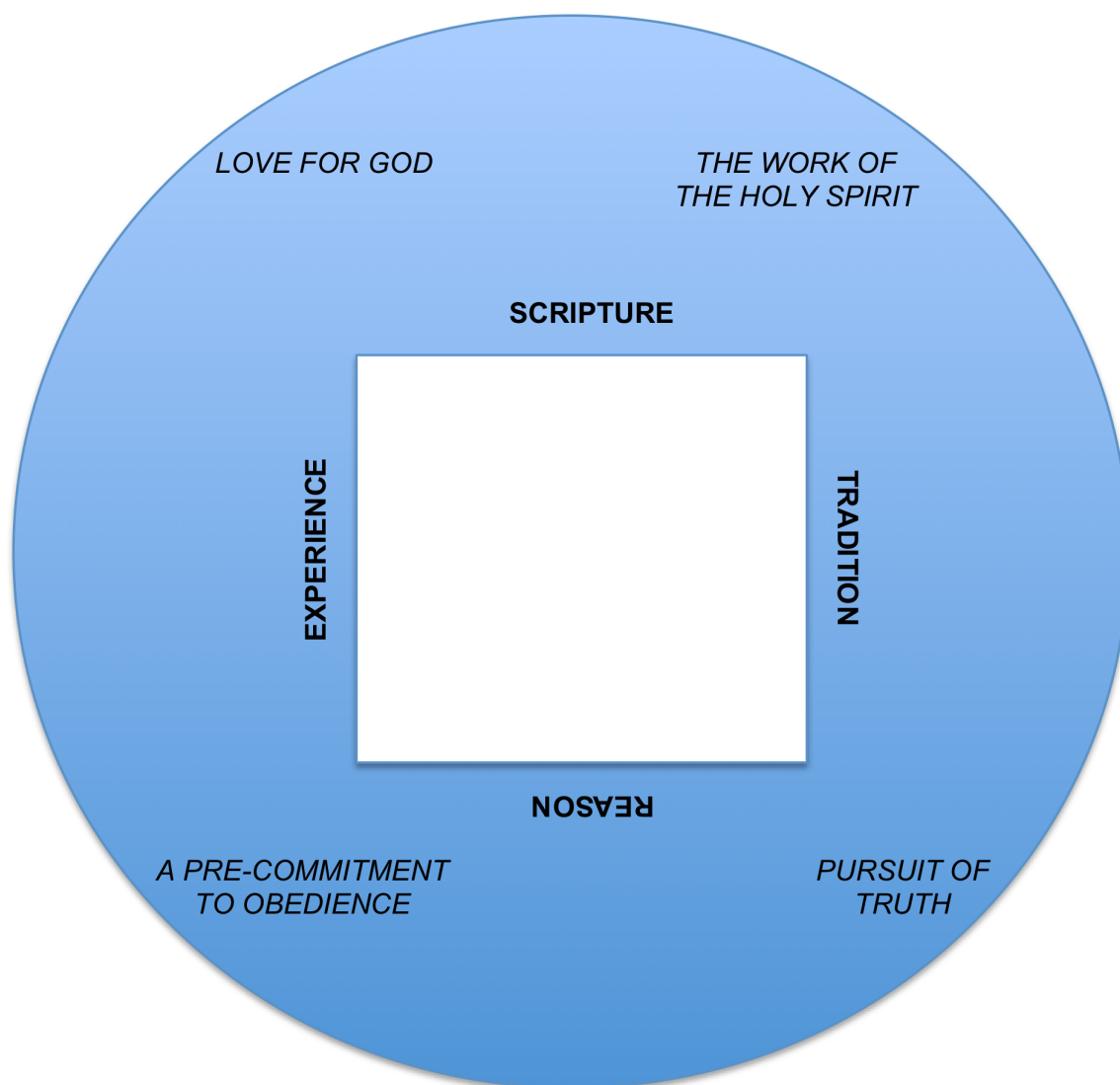


An Anabaptist approach to interpreting the Bible

A modified Wesleyan Quadrilateral that is aligned with an Anabaptist hermeneutic (i.e., approach to biblical interpretation).



Quoting Debra Hirsch: “Incorporating *Scripture* (as one’s primary source), *reason* (recognizing God has created us as rational beings able to comprehend and discover God’s truth), *tradition* (drawing on wisdom of the people of God, both past and present) along with *experience* (how we *feel*) helps us minimize the potential for being led astray or seeing emotions alone as the final authority.

“The work and guidance of the Holy Spirit is also crucial. The Spirit first inspired the writing of the Scriptures and continues to inspire and guide us as we seek to interpret them, our history and personal experience. The Spirit bring us into the knowledge of God.”

Hirsch enhances the four components of the quadrilateral “with a commitment to the leading of the Holy Spirit, approaching scripture with a *pre-commitment to obey it* and guided by our primary commitment to the *love of God*, which is a necessary guard against idolatry and deception.

“The quadrilateral’s balanced approach validates our human *experience*- how we *feel* – but also protects it within the boundaries of *Scripture, tradition, and reason*. When these are governed by love for God, pursuit of truth, and a pre-commitment to obedience, no matter what the outcome, we have a powerful combination to guide us determining God’s truth and will for us.”

- Debra Hirsch, *Redeeming Sex: Naked Conversations about Sexuality and Spirituality*, Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press