

## *Authorship and Pseudepigraphy: Levels of Authenticity*

1. *Literal authorship.* A church leader writes a letter in his own hand.
2. *Dictation.* A church leader dictates a letter almost word for word to an amanuensis.
3. *Delegated authorship.* A church leader describes the basic content of an intended letter to a disciple or to an amanuensis, who then writes the letter for the leader to approve and sign.
4. *Posthumous authorship.* A church leader dies, and his disciples finish a letter that he had intended to write, sending it posthumously in his name.
5. *Apprentice authorship.* A church leader dies, and disciples who had been authorized to speak for him while he was alive continue to do so by writing letters in his name years or decades after his death.
6. *Honorable pseudepigraphy.* A church leader dies, and admirers seek to honor him by writing letters in his name as a tribute to his influence and in a sincere belief that they are responsible bearers of his tradition.
7. *Forgery.* A church leader obtains sufficient prominence that, either before or after his death, people seek to exploit his legacy by forging letters in his name, presenting him as a supporter of their own ideas.