

Biblical Theology

Introduction: Week 1 – Intro to Theology

What Is Theology?

- Definition:
 - **Formal:** What the **whole** Bible teaches us today about any given **topic**.
 - **Practical:** Understanding what the bible teaches us about God and his relationship with the created universe.
- Doctrine: Belief
 - Doctrine (Belief) is the result of theology.
 - Theology is the process, doctrine is the result.
 - Fundamental Categories:
 - Doctrine of the Word of God
 - Doctrine of God
 - Doctrine of Man
 - Doctrine of Christ and the Holy Spirit
 - Doctrine of Redemption
 - Doctrine of the Church
 - Doctrine of the Future
- A Framework:
 - True theology is a framework of belief that informs daily living.

Why Study Theology?

- Function of Theology
 1. **Clarification** – Develops clear, holistic and comprehensive belief system.
 - Reading the bible is sufficient, but theology is an organizational tool.
 - Theology is the organization of biblical information into doctrine/belief.
 2. **Correction** – Overcome wrong ideas
 - *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world.” - 1 John 4:1*
 - Examples:
 - Prayer shawls
 - “Salvation came through Jesus’ time in hell.”
 - “I’m saved because I said a prayer when I was nine.”
 3. **Integration** – Builds a framework for Godly decisions.
 - Theology is a tool to equip believer to live, worship, teach, and answer biblically.
 - Ties together
 - Biblical truth with philosophy
 - Biblical truth with Biblical Truth
 - Biblical truth with living
 - Head – You must know truth, so that you may...
 - Heart – ...be changed by the knowledge, so that you may...
 - Hands – ...act out what you care most about, so that you may...
 - Habitat – ...affect the world around you.
 - **Biblical Worldview: Know how to see the world through biblically informed lens and experience life in light of the truth.**
 - **Develop Biblical Instincts**

- Worship Community - Core/Essential Doctrine vs. Unessential
4. **Declaration** - Making public to the rest of the world what Christ followers stand for.
- True Theology Informs
 - Issues that are relational, religious, social, political, witness to salvation.

How to Study Theology?

- Premise of Good Theology
 1. **Sola Scriptura** - The Bible is the only “final and ultimate” authoritative certain word from which we derive our theological understanding. (Doesn’t mean other sources can’t be used but the bible trumps all).
 - Secondary sources:
 - Historic Formulations / Philosophy (such as Trinity, Christology, Eschatology)
 - General Revelation (Experiencing and observing creation)
 - Human Nature (Created in his image, Puritans)
 2. **Cooperation with God** - Depend on God and Holy Spirit as you study theology.
 - We must study theology prayerfully, dependent on the Holy Spirit, with the objective of drawing closer to God.
 - *“Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. - Psalm 119:18*
 - It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the ability to rightly understand Scripture.
 - *Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. - 1 Corinthians 2:14*
 3. **Humility** – True spiritual understanding leads to humility.
 - Knowledge can puff up (1 Corinthians 8:1)
 - Proudful knowledge is contradictory to true theology and faith. (1 Peter 5:5)

Discussion Questions

1. **True or False:** Theology is the study of what a single passage teaches about any given topic. Explain your answer:
2. Define the following terms:
 - Doctrine:
 - Solo Scriptura:
3. True theology is a framework of belief that informs daily living. Of the four “Functions of Theology” stated above, where does your theological framework need the most attention (Clarification, Correction, Integration, Declaration)?