

THEOLOGY: WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?

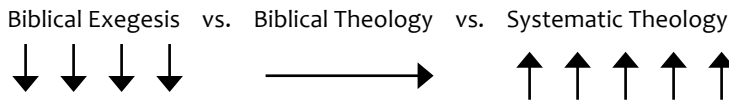
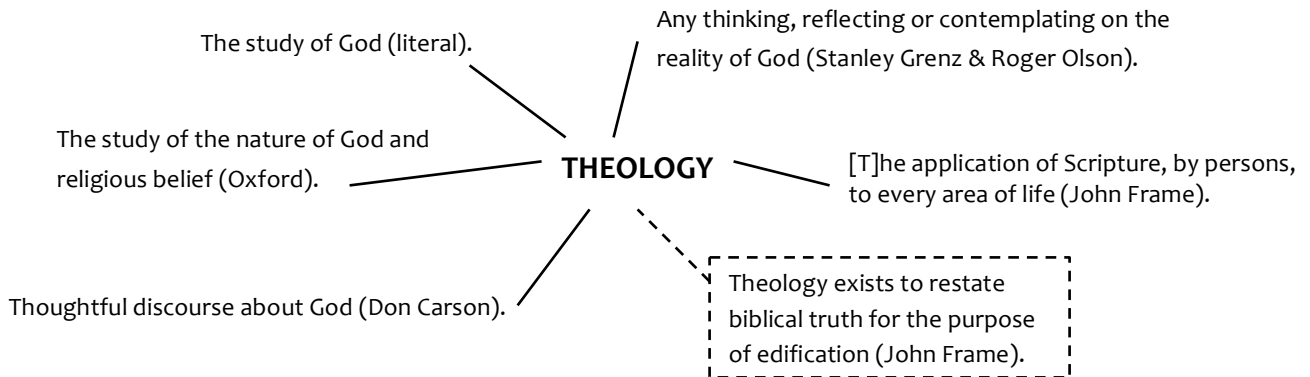
The *inevitability* of doing theology

What comes to mind when you hear the word “theology?”

The *influence* of your own theology

“The most important thing about us is what comes into our minds when we think about God.” A.W. Tozer

THE WHAT & WHY OF THEOLOGY



The goal of exegesis is to gain a worldview based on and informed by the biblical text. Ultimately we all conduct our lives based on our worldview, our perception of life as a whole. Biblical exegesis should be the foundation in the building of that worldview. The complete building is ultimately expressed in our systematic theology, for systematic theology is another way to speak of one’s worldview (Thomas Schreiner).

THE IMAGE OF GOD & THE CORRUPTION OF SIN

Creation: *the God of life speaks everything into existence* (Gen 1-2)

Image of God: *men and women to put God on display* (Gen 1:26-31)

The Fall: *refusal to take God at his word* (Gen 3)

Total depravity (Gen 6:5; Rom 8:8)

Noetic affects of the Fall (1 Cor 2:14)

Incurvatus in se (turned inward upon the self)

A person is a conscious, reflexive, embodied, self-transcending center of subjective experience, durable identity, moral commitment, and social communication who – as the efficient cause of his or her own responsible actions and interactions – exercises complex capacities for agency and intersubjectivity in order to develop and sustain his or her own incommunicable self in loving relationships with other personal selves and with the nonpersonal world (Christian Smith).

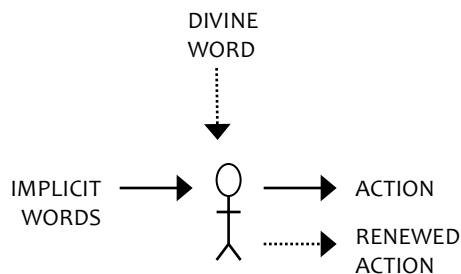


THREE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

1. There is a God (*sensus divinitatis*)
2. I am not him (inescapable moral fabric)
3. We may know him personally (requires divine action)

GOD COMMUNICATION

Intended, Broken, Restored



Natural Revelation (Rom 1:18-32) vs. Word Revelation (Rom 10:9-10)

Objectivity (I Tim 3:16) vs. Subjectivity (Ps 119)

God's Speech: Incarnate Word & Inspired Word

God's Word either softens or hardens hearts. When God speaks, will we listen? What keeps us from listening?

God's Speaking & Our Receiving

THE HOW OF THEOLOGY

Spirit-filled: The Spirit of God fills us for illumination (I Cor 2:6-16)

Humility: We never stand over God, but *under* him and his word (Ps 8; I Cor 8:1)

Prayer: Ask for God to reveal himself and helps us to understand and delight (Ps 119:18)

Discipline: Apply consistent and adequate work to rightly hear from God (Ps 119:160)

Community: Learn from and alongside others, both dead and alive (I Cor 12:28)

Relevance: Perpetually keep an eye toward how theology plays out in everyday life (Ps 24:1; II Pet 1:3-8)

Delight: God's truth must always cultivate a delight in his person and work (Ps 19:8; 139:17)

In which of these areas do you do well? In which area(s) do you need to improve?

