

# Introduction

## Theology: Core Doctrines Part 1

### I. What is Theology?

- a. David Wells has crafted a notable working definition of Christian theology:

“Theology is the sustained effort to know the character, will, and acts of the triune God as he has disclosed and interpreted these for his people in Scripture . . . in order that we might know him, learn to think our thoughts after him, live our lives in his world on his terms, and by thought and action project his truth into our own time and culture.”

### II. Why Study Theology?

- a. To \_\_\_\_\_ God
- b. To \_\_\_\_\_
- c. To \_\_\_\_\_
- d. To \_\_\_\_\_
- e. To \_\_\_\_\_
- f. To \_\_\_\_\_
- g. To \_\_\_\_\_

### III. What is Systematic Theology?

- a. Consider Charles Spurgeon’s response to those who object to a systematic approach to theology:  
“Systematic theology is to the Bible what science is to nature. To suppose that all the other works of God are orderly and systematic, and the greater the work the more perfect the system: and that the greatest of all His works, in which all His perfections are transcendentally displayed, should have no plan or system, is altogether absurd.”



## IV. What Are the Categories of Systematic Theology?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_: The organization of Scripture thematically by biblical chronology or by biblical author with respect to the progressive revelation of the Bible (properly a component of systematic theology)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_: The organization of Scripture with an emphasis on favored or selected church creeds
- c. \_\_\_\_\_: The methodical organization of Scripture by dealing exegetically with individual texts of the Bible (properly a component of both biblical and systematic theology)
- d. \_\_\_\_\_: The historical study of doctrinal developments after the apostolic era to the present time
- e. \_\_\_\_\_: The study of what can be known about God by human reason alone through the empirical study of the natural world
- f. \_\_\_\_\_: The organization of Scripture with an emphasis on the personal application of doctrinal truth in the lives of the church and individual Christians
- g. \_\_\_\_\_: The organization of Scripture by a synthesis of scriptural teaching, summarized using major categories that encompass the entirety of God's written revelation (developed from exegetical and biblical theology)

## V. What is the Relationship between Exegetical, Biblical, and Systematic Theology?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ theology involves the methodical organization of Scripture by dealing exegetically with the individual texts of the Bible. This is properly an initial component of both biblical and systematic theology. As a result, every word, sentence, and paragraph of Scripture is examined in detail.
  
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ theology is characterized by the organization of Scripture thematically by biblical chronology or biblical author with respect to the progressive revelation of the Bible. This is properly a component of systematic theology. It serves as a bridge from exegetical theology to systematic theology.
  
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ theology is the organization of Scripture by a synthesis of scriptural teaching, summarized by major categories that encompass the entirety of God's written revelation. Systematic theology develops out of exegetical and biblical theology and pulls all the teaching of Scripture together as a whole



## **VI. What is the Overarching and Unifying Theme of Scripture?**

- a. God is King of eternity (pre-Genesis 1, Revelation 21-22, post-Revelation 22)
- b. God is King of creation (Genesis 1-2)
- c. God is King of history (Genesis 1-Revelation 20)
- d. God is King of redemption (Genesis 3-Revelation 20)
- e. God is King of the earth (Genesis 1-Revelation 20)
- f. God is King of heaven (pre-Genesis 1, Genesis 1-Revelation 22, post Revelation 22)

## **VII. What are the Major Motifs of Scripture?**

- a. The Revelation of the Character of God
- b. The Revelation of Divine Judgment for Sin and Disobedience
- c. The Revelation of Divine Blessing for Faith and Obedience
- d. The Revelation of the Lord Savior and His Sacrifice for Sin
- e. The Revelation of the Kingdom and Glory of the Lord Savior

**VIII. How Does Systematic Theology Relate to One's Worldview?**

a. Source of \_\_\_\_\_

b. Source of \_\_\_\_\_

**IX. How Does Systematic Theology Relate to One's Personal Life?**

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

**X. How Does Systematic Theology Relate to One's Ministry?**

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_



