

October 22, 2023

1. What is Christian theology?

Christian theology is the study of *...the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ* [**Rom.15:6; 2 Cor.1:3; Eph.1:3; 1 Peter1:3**] as He has revealed Himself in Christ through the Word by the Spirit

This means that every time we read the Word, we are “doing” theology because the Holy Spirit is teaching us everything we need to know about God

John 16:13 *...when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the Truth* [**John 14:6**]

2. Why study Christian theology?

In **Luke 24:44**, Jesus gives us the answer: *...all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled...*

Introduction

1. What is Theology?

2. What is Systematic Theology?

- Let's start with what it's NOT.

- It does two things: It **Answers Questions** & It **Organizes Answers**
 - It Answers Questions
 - *Systematic Theology answers the question, “What does the entire Bible teach us today?” about any given topic.* – Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology 2nd ed. p. 1
 - This is called a Doctrine
 - We already do this!
 - Jesus does Systematic Theology in **Luke 24:25-27**
 - It Organizes Answers
 - Systematic Theology organizes all major doctrines into a unified whole

3. Why do we study Theology?

1. We study to teach the commandments of Christ.
 - **Matthew 28:16-20**
 - We can't impart what we don't possess.
2. We study to defend and offer Christian hope.
 - **1 Peter 3:15**
 - Marty Sampson of Hillsong Church, Australia
 - How would you answer Marty?
 - What if it's not just a stranger asking these questions?
3. We study to rid ourselves of common errors now and to create a safeguard against false beliefs that may arise later.
 - "I don't need doctrine; just give me Jesus!"
 - Which Jesus?
 - "Christianity isn't a religion, it's a relationship."
 - Christianity isn't a free-for-all.
 - Studying theology helps us to relate to God on His terms, not ours.
 - The Apostle Paul said what?!
4. We study to become mature men and women of God
 - **1 Timothy 6:3-4**, *"If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing."*
 - Proper doctrine is used by God to produce proper living.
5. We study to know God!
 - Grudem says, *"The more we know about God, and about his word...the better we will trust him, the more fully we will praise him, and the more readily we will obey him."* (Systematic Theology 2nd ed. p. 10)
 - **John 17:3**

4. How do we study Theology?

1. Prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit
 - Lot's of ME comes with me into my study
 - **Psalm 119:18** – *“Open my eyes that I may behold the wonderful things out of your law.”*
 - **1 Corinthians 2:14**

2. With help from others
 - In community
 - Believers should study theology alongside the Body of Christ, not in isolation from it.