

PRESUPPOSITIONS IN THEOLOGY | Worksheet

1. Review.

- a. Theology is “the ancient and ongoing discipline within the Christian faith that seeks, by the illumination of the _____, to understand, organise, and articulate truth about the Triune God and his works of creation and redemption in light of his _____ revelation in Scripture, his _____ revelation in Christ, and his _____ revelation in creation.”¹
- b. The three varieties of theology are _____ theology, _____ theology, and _____ theology. All three are useful and necessary.
- c. Foundational presuppositions are:
 - (1) There is a _____, and he can communicate to us (Ge 1:1, 28).
 - (2) God has communicated to us in the _____. The Bible is trustworthy (2 Ti 3:16; Jn 17:17).
- d. Personal presuppositions are:
 - (1) _____ (Heb 4:2).
 - (2) _____ (Mt 22:37).
 - (3) _____ of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:13; 1 Co 2:6-14).

(a) **1 Co 2:6-14** 6 Yet among the mature [believers] we do impart _____ [Christian theology], although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. 7 But we impart a secret and hidden _____ [special revelation] of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this [special revelation], for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, What no _____ has seen, nor _____ heard [beyond human experience], nor the _____ of man imagined [beyond human reason or imagination], what God has prepared for those who love him — 10 these things God has [specially] _____ to us [apostles] through the [Holy] Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ...12 Now we [believers] have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might [spiritually] _____ the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual _____ to those [believers] who are [in fellowship with God and therefore] spiritual. 14 The natural person [unbeliever] does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is _____ to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

 - (4) _____ (Ro 11:33-36).

2. Epistemology.

- a. _____ is the study of how man knows _____ and how _____ can be verified. It asks questions like: “How do we know?” “Says who?” “Where does that idea come from?”

¹ Definition slightly modified from one given by Dr. Michael Svigel, Dallas Theological Seminary.

- b. The five _____ of knowledge are:
- _____ : firm belief in the assertion of another who one finds trustworthy.
 - _____ : inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior.
 - _____ : comprehending, inferring, or thinking in orderly, rational ways according to the rules of logic.
 - _____ : direct observation of or participation in events as a basis of knowledge.
 - _____ : Knowledge or conviction gained by immediate apprehension or cognition without rational thought and inference.

3. Authority in Christian Theology.

- a. Evangelical views.
- _____.
 - Scripture (interpreted literally, grammatically, and historically), reason, tradition, experience, intuition.
 - In questions of Christian faith and practice, Scripture is totally sufficient. No other source need be consulted.
 - When a truth claim of Scripture conflicts with a truth claim from any other source, Scripture trumps.
 - Often biblical truth claims will not conflict with truth claims from other sources.
 - Wesleyan quadrilateral.
 - Scripture, _____, experience, reason.
 - _____.
 - Scripture, _____, reason, experience.
 - Pentecostalism.
 - Scripture and _____.
 - Paleo-orthodoxy.
 - _____, Scripture, reason, experience.
 - _____, though with Scripture supreme.
 - The subject matter dictates what sources (faith, tradition, reason, experience, intuition) are to be consulted, and what weight they should receive.
 - On any subject about which Scripture speaks and is rightly understood, it cannot be contradicted.
- b. Other views.
- Roman catholicism.
 - _____ (the church's interpretation of the Bible, church traditions, certain pronouncements by councils and popes), Scripture, reason, and experience.
 - Liberalism.
 - _____, experience, Scripture, tradition.
 - Neo-orthodoxy.
 - _____ (experiential encounter with Christ through a fallible Bible), Scripture, tradition, reason.
 - Culturalism.
 - Scripture, experience, reason, tradition, _____.