

## INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY | Worksheet

### 1. Definition.

- a. Theology is “the ancient and ongoing discipline within the Christian faith that seeks to understand, organize, and articulate \_\_\_\_\_ about the Triune God and His works of Creation and Redemption in light of His special revelation in \_\_\_\_\_, His personal revelation in \_\_\_\_\_, and His general revelation in \_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>1</sup>
- b. Biblical titles.
  - (1) The whole counsel of God (Ac 20:27).
  - (2) The standard of teaching (Ro 6:17).
  - (3) The doctrine we have been taught (Ro 6:17).
  - (4) Wisdom among the mature (1 Co 2:6).
  - (5) The mind of Messiah (1 Co 2:16).
  - (6) What is written (1 Co 4:6).
  - (7) The traditions delivered by the apostles (1 Co 11:2; 2 Th 2:15).
  - (8) The faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jud 3).
  - (9) Our most holy faith (Jud 20).

### 2. Ubiquity.

- a. We are all theologians, whether we want to be or not. We all have a theology, or worldview, whether we acknowledge its or not. It is not a matter of whether we are or aren't a theologian. Rather, it is a matter of whether we are a \_\_\_\_\_ or bad theologian.
- b. We all act upon our theology every day. We are always practicing our theology. How we \_\_\_\_\_ is our theology-in-action.

### 3. Functions. The functions of theology are to:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian faith.
  - (1) “Now in the catholic church itself we take the greatest care to hold that which has been believed everywhere, always, and by all; that is truly and properly catholic.”<sup>2</sup>
- b. Preserve the church from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (1) “The function of theology is to preserve the church from fads and novelty. A knowledge of the past keeps the church from confusing the merely contemporary with the enduringly relevant; it distinguishes the transient from the permanent. In so doing, it spares the church from diversions that, while appearing promising at the moment, are in fact harmful. A knowledge of the past bequeaths a stability and confidence in a world where flamboyant voices lend credibility to spurious ideas promising success. In essence, it brings to the church a valuable accumulation of enduring insights (often acquired at an enormous price) as well as relevant lessons and warnings. It abounds in examples, both positive and negative, for the contemporary church.”<sup>3</sup>
- c. Guide our priorities, actions, and responses to events.
- d. Express Christian doctrine \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Michael Svigel, Dallas Theological Seminary.

<sup>2</sup> Vincent of Lerins (d. 445).

<sup>3</sup> John D. Hannah, *Our Legacy*, 12.

#### 4. Varieties.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ theology.
- (1) “Historical theology focuses on what those who studied the Bible thought about its teachings either individually or collectively as in the pronouncements of church councils. It shows how the church has formulated both truth and error and serves to guide the theologian in his own understanding and statement of doctrine.”<sup>4</sup>
  - (2) Allison, Gregg. *Historical Theology: An Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. 2011.
  - (3) Hannah, John D. *Our Legacy: The History of Christian Doctrine*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ theology.
- (1) “It deals systematically with the historically conditioned progress of the self-revelation of God in the Bible.”<sup>5</sup>
  - (2) Dallas Theological Seminary, Free Online Courses, <https://courses.dts.edu/home-2/>.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ theology.
- (1) “Systematic theology correlates the data of biblical revelation as a whole in order to exhibit systematically the total picture of God’s self-revelation.”<sup>6</sup>
  - (2) Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 1993.
  - (3) Grudem, Wayne A. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Pub. House, 2004.
  - (4) McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 5th ed. Oxford: Blackwell, 2010.
  - (5) Ryrie, C. C. *Basic Theology: A Popular Systemic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.

#### 5. Dangers.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_.
- (1) “...[S]o many pick up the latest theological fashion and hail it as something new. But in fact, what the new theology is now saying has already been said previously in each of the other disciplines.”<sup>7</sup>
  - (2) “Theology insists on following philosophy, no matter how far the assumptions of that philosophy differ from the assumptions of the biblical Christian worldview.”<sup>8</sup>
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ and quarrelling (1 Co 1:10-13).
- d. Disconnect between theoretical theology (orthodoxy) and practical theology (orthopraxy)(Jas 2:18-20).

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<sup>4</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 14.

<sup>5</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 14.

<sup>6</sup> Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 15.

<sup>7</sup> Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*.

<sup>8</sup> Francis A. Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*.