

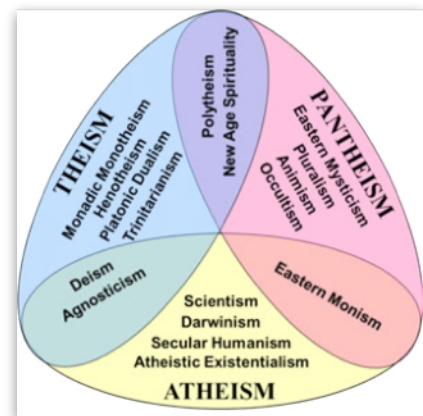
PRESUPPOSITIONS IN THEOLOGY | Worksheet

1. Review.

- a. The definition of theology is “the ancient and ongoing _____ within the Christian faith that seeks to understand, organize, and articulate truth 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 _____.”¹
- b. We are all theologians, whether we like it or not. Our goal is to be a good theologian.
- c. The functions of Christian theology are to:
 - (1) _____ the Christian faith.
 - (2) Preserve the church from _____.
 - (3) _____ our priorities, actions, and responses to events.
 - (4) Express Christian doctrine _____.
- d. Varieties of theology are _____ theology, _____ theology, and _____ theology.
- e. The dangers of theology are _____, sloppiness, compromise, novelty, speculation, _____, divisions and quarrelling, and a disconnect between theory and _____.

2. Presuppositions.

- a. Foundational presuppositions.
 - (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 _____ (2 Ti 3:16; Jn 17:17).
- b. Interpretive presuppositions.
 - (1) We are to interpret the Bible in a _____, _____ manner.
 - (2) The New Testament takes _____ over the Old Testament (Jn 16:12-13).
- c. Systematising presuppositions.
 - (1) Biblical truth is _____ and internally _____ such that it may be _____ and systematised. God is rational and orderly, and so is his revelation.
 - (2) Systematic theology is _____ by our finite minds and what the Bible reveals. Not all our questions will be answered. We are dependent on what God chooses to reveal (Dt 29:29; Eph 3:4-5).
- d. Personal presuppositions.
 - (1) _____ (He 4:2).
 - (a) “[The nature and task of theology is] faith seeking understanding (*fides quaerens intellectum*).”²



¹ Dr. Michael Svigel, Dallas Theological Seminary.

² This is the classic definition of theology associated with Augustine, Anselm, Aquinas, and others.

- (2) _____ (Mt 22:37).
(3) _____ of the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:13; 1 Co 2:6-14).
(4) _____ (Ro 11:30-36).
(a) “Worship means to recognize the worth of the object worshiped. How can any mortal put his mind to the study of God and fail to increase his recognition of His worth?”³

3. Priorities.

- a. Paul insists in *1 Corinthians* _____ is the centre and foundation of Christian theology (1 Co 1:22-24; 3:10-11; 15:3-5).
- b. What are the basics of Christian theology, the subjects every Christian must know and understand? *1 Thessalonians* provides the answer. In _____, Paul taught the new believers at Thessalonica about these subjects:
- (1) The Trinity (1 Th 1:1-6).
 - (2) The Holy Spirit (1 Th 1:5-6, 4:8, 5:19).
 - (3) Salvation (1 Th 1:9).
 - (4) Sanctification (1 Th 4:3, 5:23, 1 Th 2:12, 4:1).
 - (5) Resurrection (1 Th 4:14-18).
 - (6) The tribulation (1 Th 5:1-3).
 - (7) Jesus’ second coming (1 Th 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:14-7, 5:23).

³ Charles C. Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 19.