

Reformed Systematic Theology

Week One - Introduction

Definition:

1. From the Latin, *theologia*, in a broad sense speaks of intellectual or rational (“reasoned”) discourse about God or things divine.
2. Before “theology” became the common term, the church spoke of it as *sacra doctrina*, (“sacred teaching”).
3. The discipline that answers the question, “What does the whole Bible teach us about a given topic?”
4. **Technical statement:** systematic theology is that methodological study of the Bible that views the Holy Scriptures as a completed revelation, in distinction from the disciplines of Old Testament theology, New Testament theology, and biblical theology, which approach the Scriptures as an unfolding revelation.
5. A systematic theologian seeks to understand holistically the plan, purpose and didactic intention of the divine mind revealed in Scripture and to arrange that plan, purpose and didactic intention in orderly and coherent fashion as articles of the Christian faith.

Categories of Systematic Theology

Theology proper -- The study of God

Bibliology – The Study of the Bible; the Study of Scripture

Angelology – The Study of Angels

Anthropology – The Study of Man

Hamartiology – The Study of Sin

Soteriology – The Study of Salvation

Ecclesiology -- The Study of the Church

Eschatology -- The Study of End Times

Christology – The Study of Christ

Pneumatology – The Study of the Holy Spirit

Application: Why study theology?

Purpose of this course

Plans and recommended reading material:

A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith, Dr. Robert L. Reymond, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998

A Summary of Christian Doctrine, Louis Berkhof, The Banner of Truth Trust, 1960

Systematic Theology, Louis Berkhof, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1939,1941

Systematic Theology (3 volumes), Charles Hodge, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., reprinted 1995

The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647 with American Revisions adopted 1789), Published by the Committee for Christian Education and Publications, PCA, 1990

Syllabus

Westminster Shorter Catechism assignment

Week Two: Memorize Questions 1-10

Quizzes and Tests