

Theology Uncorked

What We Believe and Why It Matters

Introduction — What is Theology?

Definitions

- 1) Knowing God – Abraham Kuyper
- 2) Disciplined Study of God
- 3) Application of Scripture to all areas of human life – John Frame

Two Important Principles

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

What about theological disagreements?

What is Systematic Theology?

Systematic Theology is...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Traditional Categories—Bibliology, Theology Proper, Anthropology, Soteriology (sometimes also Christology and pneumatology), Ecclesiology, Eschatology.

3. What difference does it make?

- 1) A Disciplined Study of God leads to...
- 2) Deepening Relationship with God leads to...
- 3) Obedience in all areas of human life

Goal is not knowledge, it's _____ and _____.

Posture is not scholar, but _____.

1. What We Believe About God

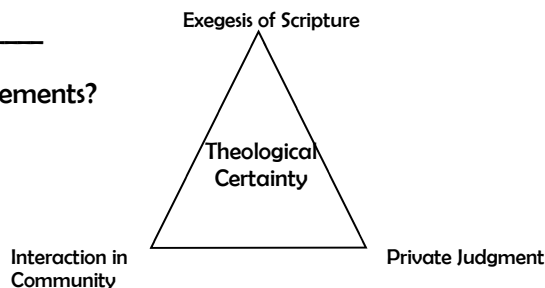
1. God's Names

The Central Name of God—LORD

1. Control— God has sovereign power over everything
2. Authority—God has an absolute right to command his creatures what they must do
3. Presence—God has an unconditional covenant commitment to his people

Proverbs 9:10 (NASB)

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.



Nothing will so enlarge the intellect, nothing so magnify the whole soul of man, as a devout, earnest, continued, investigation of the great subject of the Deity. The most excellent study for expanding the soul is the science of Christ and Him crucified and the knowledge of the Godhead in the glorious Trinity. CH Spurgeon

Man is never sufficiently touched and affected by the awareness of his lowly state until he has compared himself with God's majesty – John Calvin

2. God's Attributes

"God is a spirit infinite, eternal and unchangeable in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth." (Westminster Shorter Catechism, 4)

3. God's Actions

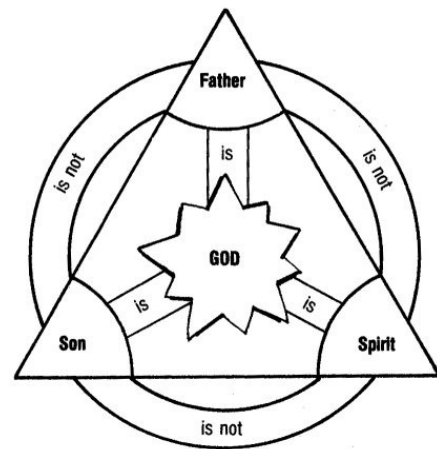
God always acts in harmony with his nature/character.

'Timeline' of God's Actions

1. Decrees—The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. WSC 7 (Rom. 8:28, Eph. 1:11; Ps. 33:11; Isa. 37:26)
2. Creation—The work of creation is, God's making all things of nothing, by the word of his power, in the space of six days, and all very good.—WSC 9 (Gen. 1:1ff; Heb. 1:3)
3. Providence—God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.—WSC 11 (Matt. 10:29-30; Col. 1:17; Psa. 19; Psa. 147:15-20, 148:5-8; Heb. 1:3)
4. Salvation/Judgment (Miracles)

What difference does knowing God's Name(s), Attributes and Actions make?

ANCIENT DIAGRAM OF THE HOLY TRINITY



4. God's Being

The Trinity

What does it mean that God is a Trinity?

1. God is One
2. God is Three
3. The Three Are God
-each person is distinct

Terms

- Substance and persons (*homoousious*)
- Subordination
 - Ontologically – no subordination
 - Economically – subordination (different jobs in creation and redemption)
- Eternal Generation & Procession

What difference does knowing God as Trinity make?

Resources for Further Study

Doctrine of God, John Frame***
Existence and Attributes of God, Stephen Charnock***
Knowledge of the Holy, AW Tozer*
Attributes of God, AW Pink*
Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem***
Christian Beliefs, Wayne and Eliot Grudem*
Systematic Theology, Louis Berkhof***
Manual of Theology, Louis Berkhof**
Summary of Theology, Louis Berkhof*

*Good place to start

**A little more advanced

***Stuff you read in Seminary