

Building Systematic Theology

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

WHAT IS SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY?



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Journal Questions

1. Why is it helpful to have systematic theology in addition to the Bible itself?
2. What aspect of systematic theology helps you the most in living the Christian life?
3. What aspect of systematic theology helps you the most in interaction in community?
4. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study? Why?

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LESSON
TWO

TECHNICAL TERMS IN THEOLOGY



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Journal Questions

1. Give at least one example each of how non-theological technical terms can both help and hinder communication in everyday life.
2. How can the principles “many terms can describe one concept” and “one concept can describe many terms” help you in your understanding and interpretation of Scripture?
3. What does the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) imply about our use of extra-biblical language?
4. How can the use of biblical and extra-biblical language aide our understanding of Scripture?
5. How can you, as student of theology, guard against the sin of pride?
6. How can terminological freedom and conceptual conformity to Scripture enhance your ability to match passages of Scripture to particular topics?
7. Explain the values and dangers of the term “trinity” as it relates to Christian living, interaction in community, or exegesis.
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LESSON
THREE

PROPOSITIONS IN SYSTEMATICS



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Journal Questions

1. How can the legitimate use and place of propositions throughout history help you today in communicating the doctrines of the Christian faith?
2. How do you reconcile the use of philosophy in the formation of systematics?
3. How does scriptural support help determine where to place your beliefs on the “cone of certainty”?
4. How does becoming aware of fundamental theological propositions aide you in becoming a more discerning follower of Christ?
5. Explain why it is important not only to get the facts straight, but also to have the right morals and emotions?

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LESSON
FOUR

DOCTRINES IN
SYSTEMATICS



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Journal Questions

1. Suppose a friend were to say to you, “Creeds and catechisms have no authority because they are not found in Scripture.” How would you respond to your friend?
2. Why is it important not to overemphasize God’s transcendence or his immanence? Why is it important to remember our finitude when seeking to understand theological doctrines?
3. How should Christians respond to the fact that doctrines are only probable rather than certain?
4. As a student of the Bible, how can thinking about doctrinal certainty in terms of the cone of certainty be of value to you?
5. Does your community give its attention mostly to doctrine, personal religious experience or corporate worship? How can you balance and appreciate the different emphases within the body of Christ?