

# Wednesdays In the Word



# True Theology: Knowing & Loving God



Textbook: English Standard Version Study Bible (ESV)  
(Pg 2505-2506) - Biblical Doctrine & Overview

Theology defined: Theos = God / Logos = Word/Study of. \_\_\_\_\_

Theology is learning to think God's thoughts after him. It is to learn what God loves and hates, and to see, hear, think, and act the way he does. Knowing how God thinks is the first step in becoming godly. \_\_\_\_\_

The goal of theology is that the student of the Word, becomes hungry for the beloved knowledge of God's holy word. \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 5:11-6:3; teaches that deepening theological understanding equips one to be able to differentiate good and evil, and to exhort believers to mature in their knowledge of God and his ways. \_\_\_\_\_

Good theology is based in the belief that God exists, is Personal, can be known, and has Revealed Himself. \_\_\_\_\_

Loving God means Loving Truth.

Considering this relationship between God and Truth; it should be no surprise that the Great Commandment includes loving God with One's Mind. Mark 12:30; quoting Deut. 30:6.

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The second half of the Great Commandment – Love your Neighbor as yourself (**Mark 12:31**). God meets Man’s Greatest need of relationship with him through an understanding of truth. **James 1:18; 1Pet. 1:23; John 17:17; Rom12:2; John 8:31-32**. Therefore, loving others involves having a deep desire that they understand truth. \_\_\_\_\_

## All Three Persons of the Trinity Vitally Related to Truth

<p><b>FATHER</b></p>	<p>“What if some were unfaithful? Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Let God be TRUE though everyone were a liar, as it is written, That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are Judged.” (<b>Rom. 3:3-4.</b>)</p> <p>“For I tell that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s trustfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs” (<b>Rom. 15:8</b>).</p>
<p><b>SON</b></p>	<p>“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” <b>John 14:5</b></p> <p>“But that is not the way you learned Christ! – assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus” (<b>Eph. 4:20-21</b>).</p>
<p><b>SPIRIT</b></p>	<p>“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness of me” (<b>John 15:26.</b>)</p> <p>“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come” (<b>John 16:13</b>).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Graph located in the ESV Study Bible (Pg 2505 Biblical Doctrine &amp; Overview)</p>

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## The Theological Method

Systematic theology seeks to summarize biblical teaching on particular topic in order to draw definitive conclusions that intersect with life. How does one apply what they have just learned to be useable in everyday life?

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## The Theological Process

<b>EXEGESIS</b>	<i>The Process of seeking to determine the correct meaning out of a particular passage of scripture.</i>
<b>BIBLICAL THEOLOGY</b>	<i>The study of scriptural revelation based on the historical framework presented in the Bible.</i>
<b>SYSTEM THEOLOGY</b>	<i>A study that answers the question, "What does the whole bible teach us today about any given question?"</i>
<b>HISTORICAL THEOLOGY</b>	<i>The study of how believers in different eras of the history of the church have understood various theological topics.</i>
<b>PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY</b>	<i>The study of theological topics primarily using the tools and methods of philosophical reasoning and information gained from nature and reason ("general revelation") apart from the bible.</i>
<b>PRACTICAL THEOLOGY</b>	<i>The study of how to best apply theological truths to the life of the church and the world (including preaching, Christian education, counseling, evangelism, missions, church administration, worship etc.</i>
<b>APOLOGETIS</b>	<i>The study of theology for the purpose of defending Christian teaching against criticism and distortion and giving evidence of its credibility.</i>

**Graph located in the ESV Study Bible**  
**(Pg 2506 Biblical Doctrine & Overview)**

## Major Categories of Study in Systematic Theology

AREA OF STUDY	TECHNICAL TITLE
METHOD OF FOUNDATION	Prolegomena
THE BIBLE	Bibliology
GOD	Theology Proper
HUMANITY (OR MAN)	Anthropology
SIN	Hamartiology
CHRIST	Christology
HOLY SPIRIT	Pneumatology
SALVATION	Soteriology
CHURCH	Ecclesiology
LAST THINGS	Eschatology

***Graph located in the ESV Study Bible  
(Pg 2506 Biblical Doctrine & Overview)***