

What is theology?

- The study of God (Greek: *theos*)
- A particular school or system of religious thought
- A learned profession acquired by specialized religious studies
- A systematic study of the nature of God and religious truth

Part 1: Theology as a particular school or system of religious thought

Main Traditions within Christianity

- Roman Catholic (1 billion)
- Orthodox (225 million)
- Protestant (450 million)
- Other (250 million)

Main Traditions within Protestantism

- Lutheran
- Anabaptist
- Presbyterian & Reformed
- Episcopalian & Anglican
- Congregational & Baptist

Message for Part 1: Churches are like snowflakes, no two are exactly alike

Part 2: Theology as a learned profession acquired by specialized religious studies

Professional levels in Medicine

- Surgeon
- Medical Doctor
- Registered Nurse
- Licensed Practical Nurse
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Red Cross Certification

Professional levels in Theology

- President/Professor (D.Min/Th.D)
- Senior Pastor (M.Div)
- Christian Counselor (MACC)
- Teacher/Principal (MRE)
- Associate/Youth Pastor (B.Min)
- Parachurch Ministry (Certificate)

Academic levels in Theology

- Doctorate (D.Min/Th.D/Ph.D)
- Master of Divinity (M.Div)
- MA in Christian Counseling (MACC)
- Masters of Religious Education (MRE)
- Bachelors in Ministry (B.Min)
- Certificate Program

Message for Part 2: Training is beneficial for ministry
So, get wisdom! Get understanding! (Proverbs 4:5)

Part 3: Theology as a systematic study of the nature of God and religious truth

Academic Disciplines in Theology

- History & Archaeology
- Biblical Languages
- OT & NT Studies
- Hermeneutics
- Biblical Theology
- Systematic Theology
- Historical Theology
- Practical Theology
- Apologetics

History & Archaeology

- Origins & History
- Religion & Culture
- Art & Literature
- Economy & Technology
- Geography & Climate

Biblical Languages

- Ancient Hebrew & Aramaic
- Koine Greek

Related Languages

- Canaanite & Arabic
- Ancient Egyptian
- Latin

OT & NT Studies

- Original author, audience
- Date, location, situation
- Literary theme, structure
- Historical, textual background

Hermeneutics

- Art, science of interpretation
- Grammatical & semantic analysis
- Historical & cultural analysis
- Literary & genre analysis
- Theological analysis

Biblical Theology

- Looks at the theology of an individual author or period of time
- Looks at how an author or period developed over time
- Looks for important themes, characteristics, perspectives

Systematic Theology

- Bibliology: study of the Bible
- Theology Proper: nature of God
- Christology: study of Jesus Christ
- Pneumatology: study of Holy Spirit
- Angelology: study of angels
- Anthropology: study of humanity
- Hamartology: study of sin
- Soteriology: study of salvation
- Ecclesiology: study of the church
- Eschatology: study of last things

Bibliology

- Inspiration
- Canonization
- Transmission
- Translation

Historical Theology

1. Church History

- Important people, places, events in the history of Christianity
- Provides solutions to problems
- Helps to avoid errors, mistakes
- Understand other groups, views

2. Doctrinal History

- The development of theological teaching through time
- Understand the factors that influence doctrinal development
- Understand the direction of theological thought

Practical Theology

- Ethics
- Homiletics
- Counseling
- Spiritual Formation
- Christian Education
- Missiology, Evangelism
- Music, Liturgy
- Pastoral Leadership
- Church Administration

Practical Theology

1. Spiritual Formation
 - AKA discipleship
 - Theory and practice of spiritual disciplines, personal growth
 - Prayer, study, meditation, fasting, service, character development
2. Homiletics
 - Sermon preparation and delivery
 - Exegetical study of the text
 - Identify spiritual principles
 - Proper application in modern setting
3. Christian Education
 - Process of teaching, instruction
 - Understanding students, needs
 - Curriculum development
 - Instruction techniques
 - Lesson planning

Apologetics

- Greek *apologia*: to offer a defense
- Deals with defending or proving the truthfulness of Christianity
- Answers objections/criticisms
- Clarifies misconceptions
- Supports evangelism

Message for Part 3: There is always more to learn...

No one has all the answers

For more information, see the Recommended Reading List at the Didactic Ministries website