

Introduction

- Prolegomena = Things set before:
 - Assumptions/Presuppositions
 - Ground Rules for Theology
 - Working Definitions
- Negative Non-Christian Attitudes
 - Fairytales
- Negative Christian Attitudes
 - Boring and irrelevant
 - People have consumer attitude

Introduction

- Everyone Does Theology
 - Most unintentionally
 - This class is intentional
- · Theology vs. Doctrine
 - Theology = study of God more general than doctrine
 - Doctrine = study of God that arises from the Bible
 - When done right, both agree with each other
- Doctrines:
 - Bibliology, Theology Proper, Angeleology, Christology, Pneumatology, Anthropology, Hamartiology, Soteriology, Ecclesiology, Israelology, Eschatology.

Theological Spectrum

- Folk Theology

 - Unreflective and subjectiveBlind faith and tradition and legend based
 - Cliché driven



Theological Spectrum

- · Lay Theology

 - Questions clichés
 - Mind and Heart focused
 - Are critical of folk theology
 - Test things against Scripture
 - Want to do theology correctly



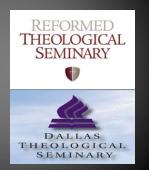
Theological Spectrum

- Ministerial Theology
 - Pastoral/Practical Theology
 - Reflective faith by trained ministers
 - Pulpit, counseling,
 - leadership, etc.
 - Theological Reflection



Theological Spectrum

- Professional Theology
 - Focus is doctrine & theology
 - Academic
 - Training for Ministry
 - Transforms a lay theologian into a ministerial theologian
 - Theology is to be practical, not just intellectual



Theological Spectrum

- Academic Theology
 - Scientific study of theology
 - Disconnected from the church
 - More obsessed with idea: than people
 - Can be secular; disconnected from the church
 - Theologians talking to theologians
 - Can be arrogant



Christian Presuppositions

- Presupposition = necessary unproven assumption from which we reason
- Christian Presuppositions
 - There is a God and He has revealed Himself in Scripture and Nature.
 - 2. Nature is Uniform
 - 3. Laws of Logic are valid.
 - 4. There are Moral Absolutes.
 - Man has the ability to know things to the degree to which he directly observes them.
 - 6. That truth does not contradict itself, but is consistent and corresponds to reality.
 - 7. The mind accepts that which is logical and rejects that which is illogical

Why is Theology Important?

- Right relationship depends upon right knowledge
- Lines our experiences up with the truth
- Guards us against the variety of false beliefs that undermine the truth

Christian Theology

 Theology is, "that discipline which strives to give a <u>coherent</u> statement of the doctrines of the Christian faith, based <u>primarily</u> on the Scriptures, placed in the <u>context</u> of the <u>culture</u> <u>in general</u>, worded in <u>a contemporary idiom</u>, and related to issues of life." (Erickson)

