What Makes Theology Theological?

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Abstract

An understanding of the nature of theology comprises an account of its object, its cognitive principles, its ends and its practitioners. The object of theology is two-fold: principally God the Holy Trinity, and derivatively all things in relation to God. God is considered first absolutely, then relatively; all other things are treated relative to God, under the aspect of creatureliness. The objective cognitive principle of theology is God’s infinite knowledge, of which God communicates a fitting share to creatures; the subjective cognitive principle of theology is the regenerate human intellect. The ends of theology are scientific (acquiring the knowledge of the matter which is proper to creatures), contemplative (rapt attention to God the cause of all things) and practical (regulation of the enactment of human life). The practitioners of theology are regenerate persons in the church whose creaturely intellect is instructed by God and all of whose works are accompanied by the practices of religion.
What is Theology? The word “theology” was derived from the combination of two Greek words, “theos” (God) and “logos” (study), the combined Greek word “theology” had the meaning of “teaching concerning God” or “study of God” and in Greek culture “theology” was related to the philosophers and poets speaking about divine matters (Grenz, 1994, p. 2). Theology was understood in the early Church and, as the expansive study of the Bible and the Church (Grenz, 1994, p. 3). “Theology” today is primarily seen as “doctrinal theology” or what was once known as “dogmatics”, which in North America is primarily a reference to systematic theology (Grenz, 1994, p. 3). The Three Sources of Theology According to Grenz The Bible as Canonized by the Church Grenz (1994) said that. The five main theological disciplines are exegesis, biblical theology, historical theology, systematic theology, and practical theology. 1. Exegesis. Exegesis interprets a text by analyzing what the author intended to communicate. It draws the meaning out of a text. Exegesis is simply careful reading. For example, when a young lady who is deeply in love with her fiancé receives a letter from him, she reads it carefully. She wants to understand what her fiancé meant. It is a way of analyzing and synthesizing the Bible that makes organic, salvation-historical connections with the whole canon on its own terms, especially regarding how the Old and New Testaments integrate and climax in Christ. Many themes in the Bible are organic—they harmoniously grow together as part of a whole. Theology, philosophically oriented discipline of religious speculation and apologetics that is traditionally restricted, because of its origins and format, to Christianity but that may also encompass, because of its themes, other religions, including especially Islam and Judaism. The themes of. Relationship of theology to the history of religions and philosophy. Relationship to the history of religions. Relationship to philosophy. The significance of theology. The religious significance of theology. The cultural importance of theology. Theological themes. Functions of theology. Theology, Theories of The term theology, in its Greek cognate roots, means discourse about or study of gods or divine things. It was not originally distinguished from philosophy about gods and divine matters, and for some contemporary thinkers, such as process theologians, theology retains that connection with philosophy. Theology, Theories of. The term theology, in its Greek cognate roots, means discourse about or study of gods or divine things. It was not originally distinguished from philosophy about gods and divine matters, and for some contemporary thinkers, such as process theologians, theology retains that connection with philosophy.