

September 6, 2023

## Introduction to Theological Anthropology, Soteriology, Ethics, and Family Practice

### Theological Foundations to Christian Living

Theological Reflection – \_\_\_\_\_

*Revelation 1:8* – “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

All theological reflection always should:

\_\_\_\_\_ with God

\_\_\_\_\_ with God

\_\_\_\_\_ with God

*1 Peter 1:14-16* – “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written: ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

Theological reflection informs us \_\_\_\_\_ we are to act like by informing us \_\_\_\_\_ He is like.

*Colossians 1:9-10* – “For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will and all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Theological reflection allows us to \_\_\_\_\_ His will and all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Spiritual wisdom and understanding is knowing how to \_\_\_\_\_ this knowledge of God so we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also transformational, which includes our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The end goal is to better see the beauty of the revealed Christ so we may *love* Him more and *worship* Him more by the way we act ethically and the way we act within our families.

*Practice:* How would your theological conviction about Christ’s deity inform the way you act as a leader?

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## Theological Anthropology & Soteriology

Doing Theological Anthropology is to \_\_\_\_\_ on what God says about \_\_\_\_\_. It seeks to understand how God made humanity, how God judges' humanity, and how God restores humanity. Remember, theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, which is why we must consider God primarily even when we think about humanity.

Important Theological Topics on Theological Anthropology:

1. God's creation
2. The image of God (*Imago Dei*)
3. The Fall – turning away from God
4. Marriage is to reflect Christ and His bride
5. The distortion of the *imago Dei*
6. The sinfulness of sin
7. The restoration of humanity in Christ
8. Having children for the glory of God

What are some topics on Theological Anthropology (Humanity) you would like to discuss more during this semester?

Doing Soteriology is to \_\_\_\_\_ on what God says about \_\_\_\_\_. It seeks to understand how God saves humanity through the death of Christ on the cross. Again, since theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, we must consider God primarily when we think about salvation. We are saved by God, from God, and for God.

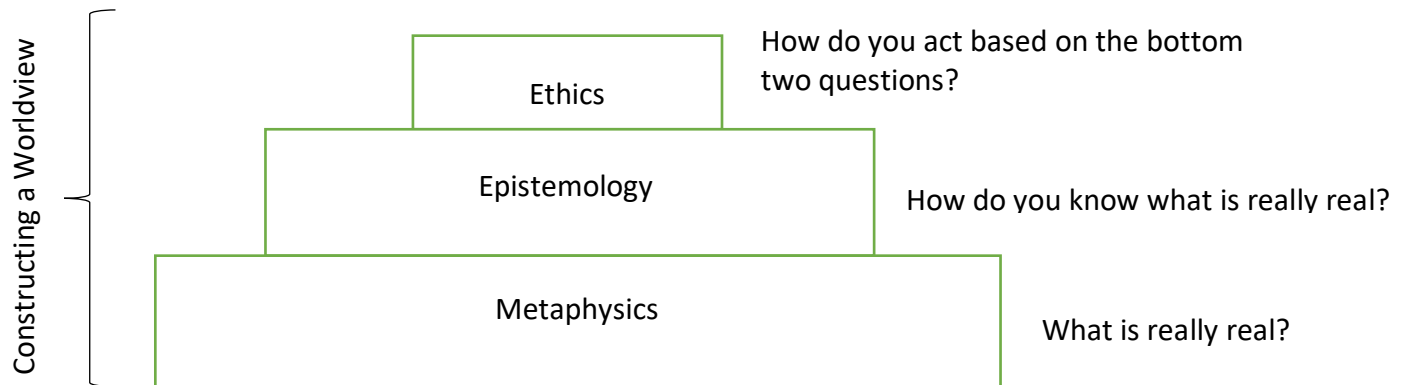
Important Theological Topics on Soteriology:

1. Original Sin and Total Depravity
2. Union with Christ
3. Substitutionary Atonement
4. Unconditional Election
5. Regeneration, Faith, and Conversion
6. Forensic Justification and Sanctification

What are some topics on Soteriology (Salvation) you would like to discuss more during this semester?

## Ethics and Family Practice

Ethics are moral principles that inform our \_\_\_\_\_. As a Christian, your \_\_\_\_\_ informs your moral principles “so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).



What are some topics on ethics you would like to discuss during this semester?

Family Practice is the way we are to act as a family based on our \_\_\_\_\_ so we can know how to honor God in and through our families. We are going to see how God’s revelation about *humanity* and *salvation* informs us how families to conduct themselves.

Because theology should not only be intellectual, but also transformational, what God says about humanity and salvation also informs our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Important Topics on Family Practice:

1. What is the purpose of marriage?
2. What is the role of a father? What is the role of a mother?
3. What does God say about singleness?
4. How are Christians supposed to raise children?

Remember, theological reflection begins, remains, and ends with God, which is why all of these questions are directly informed by our theological convictions about God and what He says about humanity and salvation.

What are some topics on family practice you would like to discuss during this semester?

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**Preparation For Next Week:**

Read – <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/he-made-them-male-and-female> (Attached to this document.)

**Further Resources:**

Akin, Daniel L. *A Theology For The Church: Revised Edition*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2014.

Köstenberger, Andreas J. and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.