

# THEOLOGY

## Framework

“ALL WISDOM BEGINS WITH WONDER”

Socrates

### WHAT IS THEOLOGY?

Theology: This simply means, the study of the nature of God. Breaking the word apart, [theo] is greek for God and [logy] means the study of or subject of interest.

As we work through this series, [logy] is at the end of each word, giving us the indication that whatever prefaces that is what the subject matter discusses.

### IS THEOLOGY A SCIENCE?

There is an argument to be made that theology is a science. The idea is that theology is a definite matter of investigation, primarily what God reveals about himself. Additionally, it involves dealing with objective issues. It is not subjective to emotional response. It also requires method and interdisciplinary work and can be understood, investigated, and observed by others.

### THEOLOGY: A WARNING, CHARGE, AND BLESSING

Doing theology is hard work. It takes patience as you wade through big words and complex concepts, and your finite humanity pushes up against an infinite God. There is risk involved. As we entered his class, a wise professor once listed the dangers of "doing theology." He said that as you do theology, God will ask you to do something. He will ask you to wrestle – persevere. Theology is seldom comfortable because it inspires change. We can't be sure of what that change will be. But we must not recoil and refuse because metamorphosis is hard and uncomfortable. Like watching a butterfly blossom and fly, is metamorphosis not wildly beautiful? Praise God that though we may change, His character never does. He is faithful, always (Heb. 10:23.)

### MYSTERY

Lastly, as you engage – allow the mystery of God to remain. While we seek answers and new questions, exploring God's revelation of Himself to us, we must allow Him to remain God. You are finite, and He is anything and everything but. So stay open to His truth above your own, stay humble that you are merely human, allow theology to shape your heart into servanthood for Christ, and get comfortable with God being God.

“

“NEVER QUESTION THE TRUTH OF WHAT YOU FAIL TO UNDERSTAND, FOR THE  
WORLD IS FILLED WITH WONDERS”

FREDERICK BUCHNER, THE SACRED JOURNEY

”

**MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT BLESS TO YOU THE ABILITY TO WONDER TO BELIEVE!**

# THEOLOGY

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## KNOWING GOD

Evangelical Theology is serious Christ centered study that aims at an overall grasp of biblical truth and its application to life.

### LEVELS OF KNOWING GOD

Not one of these “levels” are greater or less than the other. These “levels” are to be cumulative. Working together to inform and transform heads and hearts that lead to action. Action that resembles your knowing of who God is, that call the world into relationship with him.

1. Cognitive: Knowledge about who God is (Head)
2. Experiential: A personal experience or encounter with God (Heart)
3. Dispositional: Participating in life with God through action and behavior (Hands)

### SOURCES OF COGNITIVE KNOWLEDGE

**General Revelation:** God shows us who He is by revealing himself through his creation. “The heavens declare the glory of Go; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge” Psalm 19:1-2 NIV.

**Special Revelation:** God reveals who he is to humanity through the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is God’s *special revelation* of himself to us. It is in the Bible we learn the character of God and his nature. Additionally, we learn his plan for humanity and we learn of his Son, Christ Jesus who reveals even more of God to us. “He (Jesus) is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and sustains all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:3 NRSV).

**Personal Experience:** God is personal. He does and can reveal himself to individuals in unique and personal ways. Though not as common there are biblical examples, Hagar in the desert (Gen. 16), Abraham (Gen. 18) Moses and the burning bush (Ex. 3:1-15) and others. Though not as common to meet God in a burning bush today, you may feel his comfort in a song, a prayer, or moment of peace.

### ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**God is personal, however he is NOT a supersized human.**

**Communicable Attributes:** The character qualities of God that, at least a partial counterpart can be found in his human creations. These include love, justice, patience, kindness, and mercy. God is all of these attributes, perfectly. We, with his guidance, strive towards these character qualities.

**Non-Communicable Attributes:** These are the character qualities of God that are unique to him, they are his and his alone. The character qualities of God can be categorized into three categories of Greatness, Holiness, and Love. Examples are omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence and self-existence and infinity are a few of these qualities (Category: Greatness.)

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition.* (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. Theology Handbook, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*,(2010)

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"Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place of their own accord."

J.I. Packer

### HELPFUL VOCABULARY

**Holiness:** God's holiness is unique, He alone is totally holy, separate from all creation.

**Faithfulness:** Faithfulness in our humanity is best understood as "allegiance." God's faithfulness is best understood as "promise keeper."

**Salvation:** Entrance of the Holy Spirit into the life of an individual (the sinner). This happens in conjunction with justification. See Ephesians 2:8-9 & Romans 10:9-10.

**Justification:** Forgiveness of sin (an offense against God). This is done through faith in Christ (his death & resurrection). See Romans 4:25, Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:16.

**Sanctification:** Upon receiving the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ (justification + salvation) sanctification is the process by which you are transformed from within by the Holy Spirit. You may hear phrases "transformation in & through Christ, this is referencing the process of sanctification.

**Righteousness:** To be in right standing with God, or right relationship with Him. Achieved through justification, which is our salvation through Christ Jesus.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*Knowing God*, J.I. Packer

*None like Him*, Jen Wilkin

*The Knowledge of the Holy*, A.W. Tozer

MAY YOU KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST THAT SURPASSES ALL KNOWLEDGE, SO THAT YOU MAY BE FILLED WITH ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD – EPHESIANS 3:19

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition*. (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. Theology Handbook, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*,(2010)

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## BIBLIOLOGY

His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3

### WHAT IS THE BIBLE

The Bible is NOT a rule book or a collection of morality tales. *It is a love story.* It is God's revelation of Himself to humanity. When read in humble heart posture towards the Lord, it is transformative and life giving. The Bible is composed of 66 books (the cannon) and is used for encouraging believers, edification, conviction and comfort.

#### **Canon**

Refers to the sixty-six books of the Protestant Bible, including both the Old and new Testaments. Note: The Old Testament is often referenced simply as the Hebrew Bible with the first five books being the Pentateuch. The canonization of Scripture was established at Council of Hippo (AD 393) and later confirmed at the Council of Carthage (AD 397). The criteria used in discussing the books we now know as The Bible were the following: 1) Did the author have a close connection to an apostle? 2) Is the book already circulating in churches? 3) Was the book consistent with orthodox teaching? 4) Did the book reflect the high moral and spiritual values of the Holy Spirit. The material up for discussion were books/letters that were already highly viewed as authoritative. At the time of these councils the material was already in use by the early church to teach, edify, and correct. **Man did NOT decide the canon, God did.**

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Three categories are important to the conversation on Bibliology: Inspiration, inerrancy, and authority. These areas can become highly debated, partner with God as you research and study these topics.

#### **Inspiration**

There is no doubt that the Bible is inspired. It holds incredible transformative power within its pages. Experience, logic, and reason all remind us of this fact. However, there are degrees to which theologians discuss over how inspired it is. When it comes to the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit on the authors of the Scriptures, there are five theories.

- The Intuition Theory: makes inspiration largely a degree of insight. Like an artistic ability, a natural endowment, a high gift.
- Illumination Theory: There is an influence of the Holy Spirit on the authors, but involving only a heightening of their normal powers/talents.
- Dynamic Theory: emphasizes a combination of divine and human elements in the process of inspiration and the writing of the Bible.
- Verbal Theory: Insists that the Holy Spirit influence extends beyond the direction of thoughts to the selection of words to convey the message.
- Dictation Theory: Teaches that God dictated the Bible to the writers. Telling them precisely what to write – in this theory writers did not write in distinct styles.

While these may sound like small details to debate over, it can become a heated conversation. No matter where you land on this inspiration continuum, we can be confident that scripture is in fact, inspired!<sup>1</sup>

Source: Christian Theology, Millard J. Erickson (pg.174-175).

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition.* (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. Theology Handbook, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*,(2010)

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THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES; BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD WILL STAND FOREVER. ISAIAH 40:8

### Inerrancy

Inerrancy refers to the Bible as being without error (contradictions are a topic we don't have space to discuss here - note a contradiction does not equate error). It is believed that the Bible is inerrant because the Bible teaches that God cannot lie nor say any false thing (Num. 23, 2 Sam. 7:28, Titus 1:2, Heb. 6:18) thus then the Bible is the standard of Truth (John 17:7). Though admittedly a circular argument, a true one nonetheless. An important distinction to made on inerrancy is that though the Bible is inerrant – without error, our traditions and interpretations are not always so. May we always hold a high regard and love for God's Word while remaining humble in our doing of theology.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Bible for Normal People: What is the Bible <https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/what-is-the-bible/>
- The Bible Project, What is the Bible? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak06MSETeo4>
- Al Mohler and Pete Enns on Biblical Inerrancy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jC0XCQP9k0>
- The Chicago Statement of Inerrancy (File in Newsletter for download)

### Authority

Like inerrancy, authority is often a highly debated topic. Authority in terms of the Bible and its function refers to its right to command belief and/or action. Authority does not mean authoritarian. An authoritative person has the right to define a belief or practice whereas an authoritarian *demand*s the belief/practice be followed in a tyrannical and intolerant fashion.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Bible for Normal People: Disproving the proof text 2 Timothy 3:16 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzb\\_X8PaFJ0&t=95s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzb_X8PaFJ0&t=95s)
- The Gospel Coalition: Timothy Keller on the Authority of Scripture <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J67U2oTj5g>
- N.T. Wright on the Authority of the Bible [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSPJD9fp\\_IM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSPJD9fp_IM)
- How to Read the Bible For all It's Worth, Gordon Fee & Douglas Stewart (Link for this book in the newsletter).
- Translations: [https://www.instagram.com/reel/Ce1HtOqA9gK/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/reel/Ce1HtOqA9gK/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition*. (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. Theology Handbook, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*,(2010)

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## BIBLE FRAMEWORK

### OLD TESTAMENT

#### **HISTORICAL (17)**

#### **POETIC (5)**

#### **PROPHETIC (17)**

#### **PENTATEUCH (5)**

#### **HISTORY (12)**

Job  
Psalm  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs

#### **MAJOR (5)**

#### **MINOR (12)**

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1-2 Samuel  
1-2 Kings  
1-2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

### NEW TESTAMENT

#### **FOUNDATIONAL (5)**

#### **EPISTLES**

#### **PROPHETIC (1)**

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts

Revelation

#### **PAULINE (13)**

#### **OTHER (8)**

Galatians  
Romans  
1-2 Corinthians  
Philemon  
Philippians  
1-2 Thessalonians  
1-2 Timothy  
Ephesians  
Colossians  
Titus

Hebrews  
James  
1-2 Peter  
1-3 John  
Jude

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## ANTHROPOLOGY

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US, AS WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF A FATHERS ONLY SON, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH –JOHN 1:14.

### WHAT IS ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the study of humanity. This branch of systematic theology discusses the Doctrine of Humanity which includes the origin of humanity, Imago Dei as well as the Nature of Humankind.

### DOCTRINE OF HUMANITY

The Doctrine of Humanity is where anthropology and theology converge. Through the study of Anthropology, we begin to engage in theological questions of who we are and why we're here. Studying these questions from a theological Christian lens gives us an opportunity to answer those questions that will impact every facet of our lives. From how we see ourselves and treat others to the way we vote, speak and even engage with God. An important note to consider in this conversation is the reminder that God became human in Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us not only the importance of humanity, but models what it means to human, *perfectly*.

### **Origin of Humanity**

When theologians speak of the origin of humanity, this does not necessarily equate to humanity coming into being, often this is being referred to as coming into purpose. The study of origin from a theological perspective does not seek to answer how humans came to be, that answer is always God, but rather theologians seek to answer *why* humans came to be. What is the purpose of humanity.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Bible Project, The Genealogical Adam & Eve: [https://bibleproject.com/podcast/genealogical-adam-and-eve/?utm\\_source=web\\_social\\_share&medium=shared\\_podcast](https://bibleproject.com/podcast/genealogical-adam-and-eve/?utm_source=web_social_share&medium=shared_podcast)
- N.T. Wright on Adam & Eve: <https://youtu.be/3BP1PpDyDCw>
- Epic of Eden, Sandra L. Richter

### **Imago Dei**

Translated as "in the image of," this refers to humans, or as Genesis says, "adam" is made in the likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Sharing in communicable attributes as well as distinguishing humanity from the rest of creation. Human nature and our relationship to God is best understood through the study of Jesus Christ. The image of God in humanity is universal; it is in all people at all times.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- The Bible Project, Image of God: <https://youtu.be/YbipxLDtY8c>
- Matt Chandler, Why Racism is an Imago Dei Issue: <https://youtu.be/IIxAue0Q8ks>
- N.T. Wright, Made In God's Image: <https://youtu.be/B8gtYZpnG1Y>

### **Nature of Humankind**

Within the study of humanity there is conversation around what man is made of. Knowing humankind is made in the image of God, above the rest of creation, we are more than just bodies. There are three considerations for what humankind is "made of". These are trichotomism, dichotomism and monism.

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## ANTHROPOLOGY

THE SON IS THE RADIANCE OF GOD'S GLORY AND THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF HIS BEING,  
SUSTAINING ALL THINGS BY HIS POWERFUL WORD.

HEBREWS 1:3

### **Nature of Humankind**

**Trichotomism:** Human bodies are composed of three elements; body, soul and spirit. First, being the body, the physical element. The soul being the second and a non physical element. In this view both humanity and animals have a soul. The soul of an animal, however would be considered rudimentary. It is in the soul, rather than the spirit, that is the basis for reason, logic, and emotions to exist. Lastly, is the element of the spirit. The spirit in this view is responsible to responding to spiritual stimuli. Primary texts for support of this view are; 1 Thess. 5:23, Heb.4:12, 1 Cor. 2:14-3:4, 1 Cor. 15:44.

**Dichotomism:** A more traditionally held view would be dichotomist. Dichotomism maintains that spirit and soul can be used interchangeably and the nature of humankind is made of body and spirit/soul, similar to the way in which flesh and body are used interchangeably in scripture. As with trichotomism, in this view the body is seen as physical and on a trajectory of decay/death whereas the spirit/soul is the immaterial parts of humankind and moves towards sanctification/renewal in Christ Jesus. Primary text for support and in rebuttle to trichotomism are; Gen. 2:7, 35:18, 1 Kings 17:21, Ps. 31:5, Luke 10:27 (the Shema), Luke 23:43, Acts 7:59, 1 Cor.14:14, Rom. 8:16.

**Monism:** This is the view that humankind cannot exist beyond the physical body but rather body/soul/spirit is all interchangeable language referring to one's own personhood. This view is not widely held among Christians, scholar or otherwise. Scripture often affirms the continuation of life after the death of the physical body. Scriptural support immortality of spirit/soul can be found in Gen. 35:18, Ps. 31:5, Luke 23:43, 46, Acts 7:59, Phil. 1:23-24, Cor. 5:8, Heb. 12:23, Rev. 6:9, 20:4 and chapter 42.

While these views present varying theories on the nature of humankind, we must remember the unity of composition regardless of your position. Mind, body and soul work together to worship God in knowledge, truth and action, with our whole selves (Luke 10:27). Lastly however, there will be a time when our physical bodies will be no longer and our spirit/soul will exist apart from our physical bodies.

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY BUT CANNOT KILL THE SOUL. RATHER, BE AFRAID OF THE ONE WHO CAN DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL. MATTHEW 10:28

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

How Great Thou Art: <https://youtu.be/p-hvI1nbS80>

Dichotomy vs. Trichotomy Lesson Clips: <https://youtu.be/B29HcJPrR20>

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition*. (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. *Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, (2010)



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## CHRISTOLOGY

"TELL ME HOW IT STANDS WITH YOUR CHRISTOLOGY, AND I SHALL TELL YOU WHO YOU ARE"

— KARL BARTH

### Christology

Christology is the study of the person of Christ. Including both his personhood and the work of Christ. In our current understanding of Christology, we separate the personhood of Christ and his work, this was not always the case. It wasn't until the medieval period that scholastic theology separated the two. Personhood of Christ contains his divinity, humanity, and the combination of the two. Whereas Christ's work contains his life, death, and resurrection. For the sake of space, this week I will focus on his personhood rather than his works. Additional resources on his works will be noted at the end of this section.

Christology is the most debated topic in the history of the Church and amongst theologians. Who you say Christ is and what his work accomplished, as Barth states, defines who you are and impacts every facet of your being. For no one debates the existence of Jesus as a person. He was a person who lived in time, place, and space. Christology is the study of who he says he was and his work. What is of the utmost importance is if you believe his claims to be true.

### Biblical Teaching

The Bible is our source of truth so we must first understand what scripture has to say about the personhood of Jesus. Jesus did not make overt statements that he is God, he did however make statements that would be highly inappropriate for someone other than God to make. Jesus regularly pointed to himself as Messiah. An Example can be found in Luke 4:16-20 Jesus, read Isaiah 61:1-2 aloud in the synagogue. This passage points to the promise for the coming Messiah, Jesus made the claim "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Additionally, he proclaimed to take on authority of tasks only God could do, such as forgiveness of sin (Mk. 2:5). Being sinless himself (Heb. 4:15), as well as speaking of judging the world (Mt. 25:31-46). He also performed signs and wonders (John 2:1-12). Furthermore, he made a direct claim to the Old Testament in John 8:51-59 stating, "I AM". And, perhaps most famously, during the trial Pontius Pilate asks if Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God and the reply from Jesus is "You have said so" (Mt. 26:63). These are only a very small portion of examples that confirm the deity of Jesus Christ.

THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE THE LORD HAS ANOINTED ME; HE HAS SENT ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE OPPRESSED, TO BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RELEASE TO THE PRISONERS; ISAIAH 61:1

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Adolf Harnack, What Is Christianity

Noteable Theologians in this area of study; Freidrich Schleeiermacher, Karth Barth, Soren Kierkegaard, Adolf Harnack

The Humanity of Christ (Intro to Christology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdYm9WmUrYE>)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: THE WORKS FOF CHRIST

Monica Ritchie, Why Easter: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CNPnebAbRk/?igshid=MDlmYmQ2NmI%3D>

Sandra L. Ritcher, Epic of Eden: <https://rstyle.me/+ZoVquTJSzK6dUutRWxnH1w>

Mike Winger: Limited Atonement and Universalism: <https://youtu.be/DAKyQrAO3ps>

Mike Winger: A Biblical Objection to Calvinism: <https://youtu.be/oxakEI8BYBE>

### The Heated Debate

The Christology of Christ has been highly debated over the course of Christianity. Being aware of historical heresies can aid us in avoiding them today.

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition.* (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology. An introduction to Biblical Doctrine.* (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. *Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*.(2010)

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## CHRISTOLOGY

### **Arianism**

Arianism arose as a concept by a man named Arius. It is the belief that though Jesus is a created being by God he is not God himself in flesh. Jesus, referenced as the Word, was the highest of created beings and may be considered a “god.” A position of Arianism’s argument was that to maintain a strictly monotheistic theology Jesus could only be like God (homoiousios, Greek for being of similar substance, *sharing* in nature or essence) but not of the same. Erickson communicates Arianism this way “the Son has no communion or direct knowledge of the father; he is not the exact essence of God”. Arianism was rejected by the council of Nicea in 325 A.D. It was confirmed at this first ecumenical council that Jesus was *homoousios* (the Greek for being of the exact same substance, being as one) with the Father. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 A.D. confirmed the completeness of Jesus being fully human and fully divine.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Kahn Academy, The Arian Controversy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8O4AcTyjHc>

Got Questions, The Significance of Chalcedon: <https://www.gotquestions.org/council-of-Chalcedon.html>

### **Docetism:**

Another belief that was circulating in the church was the belief known as Docetism, stating that Jesus was not a man. This was such a serious claim that John went so far as to call this heresy (1 John 4:2-3).

### **Why Jesus' Full Divinity & Humanity Are Necessary:**

1) **To Be Perfect Obedience to The Father.** Jesus must be fully divine to represent perfect obedience to the Father. Adam failed in his disobedience and Jesus needed to be fully human to fulfil what man failed at doing (See Gen. 2:15-3:7, Rom. 5:18-19, 1 Cor. 15:45 & 47).

2) **To be the Perfect High Priest and Sacrifice.** To be the necessary sacrifice for our atonement he had to be made like us in every way (Heb. 2:16-17).

3) **To be the Mediator Between Humanity and God.** “There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5).

4) **To Be Our Example.** We are to not be conformed to the patterns of the world, but to the character of Christ. Being changed into his likeness as we walk with him (see 1 John 2:6, 3:2-3, 2 Cor. 3:18, Rom. 8:28, 1 Peter 2:21).

5) **To Sympathize with Us as High Priest.** Because Jesus was fully human, he experienced the same things we too, experience. He was tired and needed rest, he had emotions and felt joy, pain, and suffering (John 12:27, John 13:21, Matt 8:10, 26:38). He can sympathize with us when we too wrestle with all humanity has to offer (Heb. 2:18, 4:15-16).

6) **An Indication of Our Redeemed Bodies.** The resurrected body of Jesus Christ shows us our own eschatological hope. Jesus is the “first fruit” and the “first-born from the dead” (Col. 1:18), this gives us a pattern for our own resurrected bodies. We will still be made as flesh and bone as Jesus was after his resurrection (John 20:25-27) we will talk and eat food (I’m hoping for deep dish pizza!) Luke 24:39, 24:41-42).

### **The Incarnation**

The incarnation is the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary. This doctrine is essential in the discussion of Christology, in that it helps to deter us from heresy. Though does not confirm entirely, his claims do that, this event affirms that Jesus was fully human, he was born of a mother, as all humans are. However, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Divine from the moment of conception. Neither humanity nor divinity came before or after the other. In Christ Jesus he was perfectly both human and divine from the very beginning.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Humanity of Christ (Intro to Christology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdYm9WmUrYE>)

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## SOTERIOLOGY

ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD

ROMANS 3:23

### **Soteriology**

Soteriology is the doctrine of salvation. The Christian faith is rooted in the person and work of Christ (Christology). It is the application of Christology into lives and hearts of humanity that result in salvation.

While salvation (reconciliation to God through Christ) is always through Jesus, there are some different theories when it comes to the doctrine of salvation. It is often heard “I have been saved” stating that salvation is an act of one-time acceptance of Christology. Another view is to see salvation as a process, if one adheres to this theory they may say “I will be saved.” A combination of the views looks like separate aspects of salvation that include justification, sanctification, and glorification. <sup>2,4</sup>

### **Justification**

This is the point by which we, humanity has been reconciled to God through Christ. It does not mean transformation. Legal terms are often used in the description of justification. In a court of law, if an individual is justified, it does not mean they are blameless. They have simply been justified by no merit of their own doing but rather by the judge’s own declaration the individual has been put into right standing. <sup>2,4</sup>

### **A Place for Works**

Protestant and Catholic theology differ on the way in which they attribute works within the doctrine of justification. Simply put, Protestants would adhere to justification by faith alone. While the Catholic church affirms the Protestant belief in Justification is an act of grace and it is through faith we are saved, however, works join faith for justification.

It was Martin Luther during the Reformation that began the works and faith dissection, which ultimately ended in the separation of Catholic and Protestant. For the Protestant, not even faith is a work. However, there is further debates on the ideas surrounding “faith as a work”. John Calvin, Luther’s predecessor developed what is known as limited atonement in part with Calvinism. As scholars and theologians continue the work of justification through faith, the idea of limited atonement though still popular, is becoming less affirmed amongst scholars and theologians. On the opposite side of limited atonement is what’s known as “Universalism” where all people, regardless of their belief in Jesus are “saved.” This view is also not widely affirmed by biblical scholars and Christian theologians. See Resources below. <sup>2,4</sup>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Mike Winger, Limited Atonement, Universalism and why I disagree with both: <https://youtu.be/DAKyQrAO3ps> (If you watch one thing this week, let it be this)

### **Sanctification**

The process by which we become more like Christ in attitude, heart posture and behavior after justification is known as sanctification. Recall that justification is not transformation. Transformation is evidence of the Holy Spirit working in hearts and lives. Evidence of sanctification and the Holy Spirit working in the heart is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). <sup>2,4</sup>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Desiring God, John Piper and Timothy Keller Wrestle with Sanctification: <https://youtu.be/QecyvLgSuN8>

The Bible Project, Holiness: <https://youtu.be/l9vn5UvsHvM>

# THEOLOGY <sup>1</sup>

Framework

## SOTERIOLOGY

"LET US HOLD FAST TO THE CONFESSION OF OUR HOPE WITHOUT WAVERING, FOR HE WHO PROMISED IS FAITHFUL"

HEBREWS 10:23

### **Glorification**

Sanctification is a lifelong process; glorification is an eschatological (future) hope not reached in this lifetime. God is the only one worthy of glory, but by His grace we will be made completely whole, holy, and righteous at the end of this life (see Rom. 8:29-30, 1 Pet. 3:5). Stanley Grenz describes glorification this way "We will be characterized by righteousness not only in our standing before God through Christ, but also in our actual living. It is the culmination of salvation." <sup>4</sup>

### **Faith, Conversion and Repentance**

#### Faith

Now Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1). This is often the passage of scripture used to describe faith and while that is true, there is more to it. Our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is not subjective, passive, blind nor simply an "optimistic outlook". Faith, doubt and wrestling are often intertwined in Scripture (Jacob in Gen. 32:22-32, John the Baptist in Matt. 11 1-6 & Thomas in John 20:24-31. Doubt is not the opposite of faith, it is an element of it. Faith is an ongoing holding fast to the One who has promised and a continued trust in His faithfulness (Heb. 10:23).

#### Conversion

Conversion is the point in which the Holy Spirit has begun it's work in the heart on the believer post justification. It is the point of which we throw off our old selves and become new in Christ (Eph. 4:22-23). This begins the process of regeneration. It is theologically significant due to the metaphor within the word. It highlights a new birth, just as you were once born as a baby, after you are justified through Christ, you are born into the family of God. Unified with believers past, present and future. We will discuss the Holy Spirit and conversion more next week in Pneumatology. <sup>2</sup>

#### Repentance

Perhaps most important, next to belief in Christ, to the conversation of salvation is repentance. Repentance means a change of heart and mind making it the pathway for which we can receive salvation through Jesus Christ. Repentance takes an acknowledgement of who you are, in your humanity in light of who God is, in His holiness. It is <sup>3</sup>an awareness of your sinful state and inability to be reconciled by your own merit to a Holy God. At it's core, it's confessing the need for Jesus Christ.

### **5 Steps for Biblical Repentance**

1. Be honest about your need for repentance
2. Acknowledge the danger of sin and damage of guilt.
3. Confess fully
4. Hide in God
5. Seize the hope

The Gospel Coalition, full article linked below

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

N.T. Wright, After you Believe: Why Christian Character Matters: <https://youtu.be/ukyNU51OcnA>

How to Repent, 5 Steps: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-repent-5-steps/> Got Questions, What does the Bible say about

Repentance: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-repentance.html>

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition.* (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology. An introduction to Biblical Doctrine.* (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. *Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, (2010)

# THEOLOGY <sup>1</sup>

Framework

## PNEUMATOLOGY

BUT THE COUNSELOR, THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS AND WILL REMIND YOU OF EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID TO YOU.

JOHN 14:26

### Pneumatology

Pneumatology is the doctrine or study of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity. Similar to the way Christology is theology being applied, pneumatology is also the application of theology in our lives. The work of the Holy Spirit applied to our lives results in soteriology (see Theology Framework: Soteriology).

As we study pneumatology, it's imperative we recall our first lesson of studying theology; to allow the mystery of God to remain. While the personhood and workings of the Holy Spirit can and should be studied, we must find peace with understanding that we cannot know all the ways in which the Spirit works. Praise God that His ways are always higher than ours. (Isa. 55:8-9).

1

### The Person of the Holy Spirit

#### The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The Spirit was present in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, the writers knew of the Spirit as a presence, force and active element of faith that sustained life (Gen. 6:3; Job.27:3; 34:14-15). It was through the Spirit that a prophet was able to speak on behalf of God (Num. 24:2-3; 2 Chron. 15:1-2). Pneumatology in the Hebrew Bible was largely eschatological, focused on future events. God promised to make a new covenant with Israel, one where the Spirit would not come to individuals to speak on His behalf but rather, in the new covenant, God would pour His Spirit onto all people (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:25-38).

1

#### The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

Jesus Christ is the bearer of the Holy Spirit to all people. The ministry of Jesus began in the temple as he announced himself as fulfillment of prophecy (Luke 4:18-19; Isa. 61:1-2). The Spirit uniquely led Jesus through his ministry, leading and empowering him (Matt. 4:1; Matt 12:28). It is through the mission of Jesus Christ and his glorification, his death, resurrection and ascension, that the new covenant is made. In this new covenant, the new humanity, that the Holy Spirit is available to us all (see John 16:7; Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10).

4

#### Pentecost

This is the event where after the glorification of Jesus Christ, the Spirit came upon the people (Acts 2:1). The new humanity had been set in motion and the Spirit's indwelling of the heart had been fulfilled as prophecy proclaimed (Joel 2:28-31; Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10). It is by the glorification of Christ, the Spirit is available to us all and Christ's promise to be with us, always, is fulfilled.

4

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Got Questions, what is the role of the Holy Spirit: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-today.html>

The Theology of the Holy Spirit, Mike Winger: <https://youtu.be/28HVFJttJiQ>

The Bible Project, The Holy Spirit: <https://youtu.be/oNNZO9i1Gjc>

# THEOLOGY

Framework

## PNEUMATOLOGY

"AND SURELY, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE"

MATTHEW 28:20

### The Work of the Holy Spirit

In Christology, the discussion over the identity of Jesus Christ is of the utmost importance, that shifts slightly with the study of the Holy Spirit. While we certainly are interested in the Spirit's identity, we are more concerned with the workings of the Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit involves conviction, regeneration & sanctification, empowerment, indwelling & illumination, advocate & helper, comforter, and gift giver. Different words may be used to describe these works, it is less important to understand what vocabulary is being used than it is to understand the works themselves. Each of these works brings a vibrancy to our Christian living that can and should be called upon.

### Conviction, Regeneration & Sanctification

Conversion begins with conviction and it is only the beginning of the Christian life. After the Holy Spirit convicts the heart and turns it towards God it gets to work on transformation! It is by the power of the Holy Spirit in the heart that produces good works (See John 14:12, 16:7 & Acts 1:4-5) for a great example. Additionally, Paul speaks of the fruit of the spirit as evidence of a transformed heart (Gal. 5). This fruit cannot be produced by an individual on their own efforts, these are produced by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit within the human heart. This is both part of our regeneration and sanctification. <sup>1</sup>

### Empowerment

The Holy Spirit empowers us to great things for the Kingdom of God. Any of our human success for God is not because of our abilities, it is because of the Holy Spirit's empowerment (John 14:12).

### Indwelling & Illumination

Once an individual becomes a believer, the Holy Spirit indwells within the human heart. Giving the Spirit the ability to get at the very center of a person. Because the indwelling of the Spirit, He is able to illuminate truth, wisdom and discernment for us. These are things we can and should pray for more of as well (John 14:16-17; 15:6).

### Advocate & Helper

Another word often used for advocate or helper is intercessor. Paul speaks of intercessory prayer, when we don't know what to pray for it is the Holy Spirit, indwelt within that intercedes and prays for us (Rom. 8:26-27).

### Comforter

The Holy Spirit is our comforter. Because of the glorification of Jesus Christ, we have access to the peace and comfort of God by way of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ. This is our new humanity. Giving us comfort, courage and strength in our times of need.

### Gift Giver

The Holy Spirit gives certain gifts to believers that edify, uplift and encourage the body of Christ. It is not entirely understood if these gifts are from birth and enhanced as one grows in spiritual maturity, given at conversion or a combination of both. Either way, we do know that the Spirit gives gifts to individuals for the body of Christ and the glory of God. Additionally there are gifts that all believers should expouse, such as faith and service, and others only for individuals. Gifts vary, but let it be praised that all gifts are important to the body of Christ and serve as a reminder that we need each other.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Gifts of The Holy Spirit, Matt Chandler: <https://youtu.be/GbAesloaSu4>

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition*. (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. *Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co 2017. 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*.(2010)

# THEOLOGY

Framework

## ECCLESIOLOGY

WHAT AGREEMENT HAS THE TEMPLE OF GOD WITH IDOLS? FOR WE ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD; AS GOD SAID, "I WILL LIVE IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

2 COR.6:16

### Ecclesiology

Ecclesiology is the study of the doctrine of the Church. Theologian Stanley Grenz calls the church "a covenant people". This is a theological statement of what and who the Church is. It is a people in a relationship with God and with one another. Both share in the salvation provided by God through His Son, Jesus Christ<sup>1,4</sup>.

### Ekklesia

Ekklesia is a word from the New Testament that arises from the Greek word kaleo, a verb meaning "to call." The preposition (ek) originates from the Greek "out of." Together, theologians conclude that the result translates to a noun meaning "the called ones<sup>1,4</sup> out of."

### **Nation, Body, and Temple**

#### Nation

The idea of the Church being a covenant people, as Grenz concludes, is significant because it directly relates to Old Testament language. In the Old Testament, the nation of Israel had been called out into a special relationship with God. In the New Testament, through Jesus Christ, it is now all people being called out into a royal priesthood and belonging to God (Gal. 3:28; 1 Pet. 2:9). The vision in the New Testament is one of a new humanity all persons "from every tribe, and language, and people, and nation"<sup>4</sup> (Rev. 5:9).

#### Body

Often, the Church is referred to as the "body" of Christ or some variation of being the "body." This language is found in the New Testament (Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:27). With this body, it is Jesus Christ that is the head of the Church (Col. 1:18). Just as Jesus did the will of his father, so are we, the body to do the will of Christ. Additionally, this picture of the body reminds us that though we may each have different functions, we are unified with Christ (at the head) and are working towards the same goal – to represent Christ here on earth.

#### Temple

In the Old Testament, the temple was God's earthly dwelling place (2 Chron. 6:1-2). It was where the nation of Israel would go to experience God. Because of Christ, the Holy Spirit now<sup>4</sup> resides, indwells, and lives in each individual believer (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5). Also see Christology, Soteriology, and Pneumatology).

### **Mystical, Universal, and Local Church**

The "mystical church" is all believers of all ages over all of time (Heb. 12:22-23). Once an individual becomes a believer in Christ as savior, they are connected to all believers of all times through Christ. The Universal Church is all believers on earth at any given time. Often, as in the apostle's creed, this is called the Catholic Church. This does not refer to the tradition of Catholicism but is understood as the Universal Church. The Local Church is the gathering of covenant people in one specific location at a particular time<sup>1,4</sup>.

### **Visible and Invisible Church**

The visible church is each person that proclaims faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. However, there became a question of how the Church should be identified. Martin Luther first made this distinction as he questioned whether or not the Church was to be identified with the earthly institution. As it is entirely possible for an individual to be a part of the local church but not indeed be justified by Christ. It is equally likely for an individual not to be a part of a local church and be justified by Christ. Thus, Luther defined the visible Church as the one we can see. It is those who proclaim Jesus Christ as the savior. The invisible Church is those who genuinely are justified (see Soteriology)<sup>1,4</sup>.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. Life Together. [https://rstyle.me/+2Dk38anjx2\\_5XgA4wIohWQ](https://rstyle.me/+2Dk38anjx2_5XgA4wIohWQ)

Frazer, Randy. The Connecting Church 2.0. [https://rstyle.me/+YDN\\_SESkTV0QWpJswipJPgMcKnight, Scott. A Church Called Tov](https://rstyle.me/+YDN_SESkTV0QWpJswipJPgMcKnight, Scott. A Church Called Tov)  
McKnight, Scott. How to be 'Tov' not Toxic. <https://youtu.be/k6SgkWJ9cmQ>

# THEOLOGY

Framework

## ECCLESIOLOGY

BUT YOU ARE A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD, THAT YOU MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT.

1 PETER 2:9

### The Role of the Church

The role of the Church should include evangelism, edification, worship, and social concern. The Church should have the gospel at the heart of its ministry, with the character qualities being service and adaptability. By adaptability, I do not mean changing the Gospel message, which must remain central to the heart of the Church. Adaptability is spoken of here as being flexible to meet people. It means it must go where the people need them and meet them there. God did not hesitate to leave His throne and come to earth to redeem humanity. The Church must not hesitate to leave comfort or adapt without altering the gospel to reach those in need. The Church is eschatological. It represents a community of people called out of the world into a relationship with God and is a sign of His coming Kingdom. The Church, in its new humanity through Christ Jesus, is to bring Heaven to earth in shalom, peace, righteousness, justice, and love. (Eph. 2:14-19; Rev. 21:1-5a)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

McKnight, Scott. A Church Called Tov; [https://rstyle.me/+wGWaERiMrHYL\\_VRyAfG\\_hg](https://rstyle.me/+wGWaERiMrHYL_VRyAfG_hg)

Wright, N.T. Surprised by Hope; [https://rstyle.me/+E68ASkB\\_G9uWhSvDuoIU1g](https://rstyle.me/+E68ASkB_G9uWhSvDuoIU1g)

### Ordinances & Sacraments

Ordinances and sacraments are outward acts performed by people in covenant with God that aim to reveal an inward invisible fidelity and obedience to God that celebrate His endless grace and mercy. Throughout church history, ordinances and sacraments have been the cause of many denominational divisions. These ordinances and sacraments include Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion). Let us humbly approach theology as we remain focused on the unifying message of the gospel.

### Baptism

Baptism is practiced by all Christians as it was commanded by Jesus (Matt. 28:19). It is the seal of our identity in Christ. A baptism is a symbolic act of the gospel. Through it, we are making a public confession of saving grace in Jesus. Outside of the Catholic tradition, all other traditions prioritize a "believers' baptism." This is the mode of baptism done by complete immersion (full body in water as compared to "sprinkling") after the individual has expressed saving faith in Jesus Christ.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Drimalla, Shara & BibleProject Team. "The Meaning of Baptism." <https://bibleproject.com/blog/baptism-in-the-bible/>

GotQuestions.Org <https://www.gotquestions.org/believers-baptism.html>

GotQuestions.Org. Is Baptism Necessary for Salvation: <https://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-salvation.html>

Mike Winger. Controversies and Biblical Clarity on Baptism. [https://youtu.be/vOx9Em\\_4\\_nI](https://youtu.be/vOx9Em_4_nI)

### Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, also known as Communion. After baptism, which seals our identity in Jesus Christ, the Lord's supper reaffirms our identity in Jesus Christ. God has consistently invited humanity to share meals with Him and one another. It has long been the practice to gather around as a people in covenant with God and practice communion. The theology behind this sacrament, like baptism, has been the source of much theological division. The theological division rests mainly on how to define the presence of the Lord in the Lord's Supper. Competing views are transubstantiation, consubstantiation, symbolic or spiritual.

**Transubstantiation** views the elements of Communion, the bread and wine, as being transformed into the literal body and blood of Jesus as the priest prays over the elements. This view is one held in the Catholic tradition and rejected by Protestants. **Consubstantiation** views the elements of Communion, the bread and wine, as not the literal blood and body but do believe that Jesus is uniquely present in and with the elements. **The Symbolic View**, developed by Zwingli, emphasized that the elements of Communion are symbolic and used to remember Jesus. The view is that Jesus has promised to be with us always but is not physically present in Communion elements. **The Spiritual View**, developed by John Calvin, emphasized the elements of Communion as not being the literal blood and body, nor being there in any physical way. He also rejected the idea of Zwingli, which stated it was merely symbolic. Calvin believed that during the practice of Communion, Jesus is spiritually present in a unique way.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Drimalla, Shara & BibleProject Team. "Why is the Lord's Supper Significant." <https://bibleproject.com/blog/lords-supper-in-the-bible/>



# THEOLOGY

Framework

## ANGELOLOGY

YOU ARE THE LORD, YOU ALONE; YOU HAVE MADE HEAVE, THE HEAVEN OF HEAVENS, WITH ALL THEIR HOSTS, THE EARTH AND ALL THAT IS ON IT, THE SEAS AND ALL THIS IS IN THEM. TO ALL OF THEM YOU GIVE LIFE AND HOST OF HEAVEN WORSHIP YOU. NEH. 9:6

### What are Angels?

"Angels are created spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence but without physical bodies" (Grudem 1994, 397). Like we humans are God's partners on earth carrying His mission forward, angels are God's partners within the spiritual realm.<sup>1</sup>

### Created Spiritual Beings

Angels are created, living, spiritual beings that possess moral judgment and high intelligence. Currently, their status is higher than humanity. However, in the new heaven and earth, through Christ, we will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). It is because Jesus became lower than the angels (Heb. 2:9) that we will be righteous and lifted high to sit higher one day than angels. Praise Jesus.

### What Angels are not?

Angels are spiritual, created beings separate from humanity. God created both humans and angels. However, only humans are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27). Additionally angels do not marry and they cannot bear children like humans.

Because of this "otherness" between humanity and angels, though a comforting thought, it would not be compatible with scripture to state that our loved ones who pass away become angels.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Bible Project. Intro to Spiritual Beings: <https://youtu.be/cBxOZqtGTXE><sup>3</sup>

### Names of Angels

Angels can be referenced as "angels" in scripture but also have a few other names. They can be called "sons of the mighty" (Ps. 89:6), "holy ones" (Psalm 89:5), heavenly beings (Psalm 29:1), "sons of God" (Job 1:6), "heavenly hosts" (Psalm 148:2; 1Kings 22:19), "holy watchers" (Dan. 4:13), "rulers" (Dan. 10:13).<sup>3</sup>

Rarely are angels mentioned by name. The only angels referenced explicitly by name are the "archangel" Michael, who, by this title, indicates authority over other angels (Jude 9, Rev 12:7-8, Dan 10:13, 21). And the angel Gabriel is also identified by name in scripture. Gabriel is the angel that brings the message of Christ's birth to Mary (Luke 1:19, Luke 1:26-27).<sup>3</sup>

### Cherubim and Seraphim

There does appear to be a Divine Council of spiritual beings within scripture. However, within that, there is a hierarchy. The Cherubim and Seraphim are at the top of this hierarchy of created spiritual beings. They are angels in the broad sense that they are created spiritual beings. However, they are the highest spiritually created beings with a specific role to guard the Holy of Holies, the sacred space. They also continually sing worship to God (Isa. 6:3, Rev. 4:8).<sup>1,4</sup>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Bible Project. Angels and Cherubim: <https://youtu.be/-bMRxQbLUlg>

GotQuestions.org. What is the Hierarchy of Angels: <https://www.gotquestions.org/hierarchy-of-angels.html>

1. Grudem, Wayne. 1994. *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. InterVarsity Press 2. Heiser, Mike "Series on Angels," Youtube, 2022. 3. Swanson, Amy. What are all the Names of Angels in the Bible. Christianity.com, 2020 4. *The Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co. 2017. Holman Bible Publishers.

# THEOLOGY

Framework

## ECCLESIOLOGY

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, WHO  
WAS AND IS, AND IS TO COME  
REVELATION 4:8

### Roles and Purpose

God's heart is to call *all* of His creation back into right relationship with Him. Angels are a way in which He does that. Like humans, angels represent God's love and plan for His creation. They are moral, intelligent agents that model a partnership with God. They have specific roles and purposes.

**Messengers:** Angels are messengers of God's word (Luke 1:26-28).

**Warriors:** Angels fight God's battles (1 Sam. 4:4, Matt. 26:53).

**Worship God:** Angels stand in the presence of God and worship Him (Rev. 7:7).

**Judge:** Angels execute God's judgements (Gen. 19, Ex. 12:23).

**Protect:** Angels protect God's people (Ps. 91:11, Heb. 1:14).

**Guard:** Angels guard the throne of God (Gen. 3:24).<sup>1,4</sup>

### Gaurdian Angels

It is true that angels protect, guard and serve God's people. However, there is no scriptural indication that each person has a single guardian angel.

### Fallen Angels

Scripture does talk about fallen angels, meaning, like humans, they, too, have had a rebellion against God. However, unlike humans, angels cannot be redeemed. Humanity is redeemed through Jesus Christ, brought back into right relationship with God. 2 Peter 2:4 reminds us that God did not spare the angels when they sinned". Additional scripture supports this in Jude 6, Heb. 2:16.

<sup>1,2</sup>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Bible Project. The Satan and Demons: <https://youtu.be/CamYtVpoTNk>

GotQuestions.org. Are Demons Fallen Angels: <https://www.gotquestions.org/fallen-angels.html>

### The importance of Angelology

The study of angels reminds us that there is a spiritual realm. One beyond the things we can see or experience in totality this side of heaven. While we should not be consumed with the idea of angels nor worship them, it is great benefit to be aware of them. It should lead us to thank God for the angels He has created and what they do for us. Additionally, it should bring us awe, wonder and thanksgiving that God sent His son, to be lower than the angels so that one day, we may sit high above, with Him.

<sup>1</sup>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Monica Ritchie, IGTV Angels: [https://www.instagram.com/tv/CLrTztHAK\\_C/?igshid=ZmMyNmFmZTc=](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CLrTztHAK_C/?igshid=ZmMyNmFmZTc=)

Mike Heiser. Series on Angels: [https://youtu.be/7Q\\_Svmo9rh0](https://youtu.be/7Q_Svmo9rh0)

<sup>1</sup>.Grudem, Wayne. 1994. *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. InterVarsityPress <sup>2</sup>. Heiser, Mike "Series on Angels," Youtube, 2022. <sup>3</sup>. Swanson, Amy. What are all the Names of Angels in the Bible. Christianity.com, 2020 <sup>4</sup>. *The Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co. 2017. Holman Bible Publishers.

# THEOLOGY

Framework

## ESCHATOLOGY

OUR CULTURE IS SO FIXATED ON DYING AND GOING TO HEAVEN WHEN IN THE WHOLE SCRIPTURE IS ABOUT HEAVEN COMING TO EARTH

N.T. WRIGHT

### Eschatology

The study of the doctrine of the last things or end times. End times including both humanity and creation. [Escha] from the greek work Eskhatos meaning 'last' and again, [logy] meaning the study of, or subject of interest.

### Helpful Vocabulary

#### **Metanarrative**

This is the whole universal plan of God worked through his creation and focusing primarily on God's people.

#### **Millennium**

Either a literal or figurative thousand-year reign of Christ. This is from Revelation 20 which speaks of a thousand-year reign. The Eschatological viewpoints will revolve around the interpretation of this event and these verses.

### The Second Coming

Eschatology is a highly debated doctrine amongst theologians today. While there are many viewpoints to end-time interpretation and variations within those interpretations, we will cover only the main three. Each of these interpretations understands scripture as revealing the second coming of Christ. However, there is some debate about whether the second coming is a physical, cataclysmic, literal event (Acts 1:9-11) or whether the second coming has already happened in Pentecost. Scripture supports that Christ is present within each believer (see pneumatology). Additionally, this perspective points out that we will meet Christ again at the end of our time on earth, which scripture also supports. Theologian Millard Erickson says this about the debate "There is no essential reason why the kingdom cannot be both present and future, both immanent and cataclysmic" (Erickson, 2013, p. 1091). The second coming of Christ remains mysterious. What we know to be true about it is that it will be visible (Acts 1:11), unexpected (Matt.24:15, 21, 37, 1 These. 5:2-3, Matt. 25:1-13, 1 Pet. 3:3-4), and it will be glorious and triumphant (Matt 24:30, Mark 13:26, Luke 21:27).

1

### Top Three Views

#### **Amillennialism**

This viewpoint asserts that there is no future millennium. That those who have died have gone to heaven, and they are currently reigning with Christ in heaven. At the second coming, the return of Christ, there will be all the end times events at once. A judgment (2: Cor. 5:10, Rev. 20:11-15) will occur, and there will be a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21) at this time as well. From there, we will enter the eternal state.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Got Questions.org. What is

millennialism.<https://www.gotquestions.org/amillennialism.html>

North View Church. Making the Case for Amillennialism.<https://youtu.be/-KVjOPJgFfg>

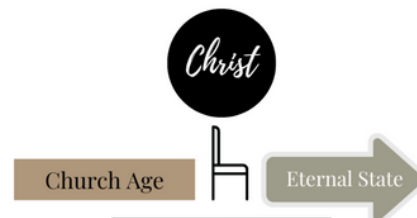
Ask N.T. Wright. Responding to William Lane Craig/ Ask N.T. Wright

Anything.<https://youtu.be/wNlcPgNcHvA>

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition.* (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith,* (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine,* (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. *Theology Handbook,* Daily Grace Co 2017. 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity.*(2010)

The simplest of views is amillennialism. Christ and Christians who have died are already reigning with Christ in heaven.

Amillennial meaning that there is no future 'millennium' yet to come.



This view would hold that the church age is now, that Revelation 20:1-6 is the happening in the world at this point in time. At the time of Christ's return there will be a resurrection of both believers and unbelievers with the judgement of humanity. The new heaven and new earth will also happen at this time.

# THEOLOGY

Framework

## ESCHATOLOGY

AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF AGE.

MATT. 28:20

### Postmillennialism

In this view, as the prefix post suggests, the return or second coming of Christ will come AFTER or POST the millennium. However, within this view, there is a belief that the church age will gradually shift into the millennium on earth due to the church's expansion. Meaning more and more people will turn their hearts to Christ. Of all the views, this is the most optimistic. It is optimistic because it believes the gospel has the power to do this. The power to shift enough hearts, to change culture!

It is after the millennium, which could be a literal thousand years or a significant amount of time on earth, Christ would return. That is then when the judgment of all believers would occur, the new heaven and earth would be established, and we would move into the eternal state.<sup>1,3</sup>

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Got Questions.org. What is postmillennialism .<https://www.gotquestions.org/postmillennialism.html>

North View Church. Making the Case for Amillennialism.<https://youtu.be/-KVjOPJgFfg>

Right Response Ministries. Views of the End Times: Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, Amillennialism.<https://youtu.be/HdDhzonM6dQ>

### Premillennialism

Just as we noticed the prefix in the previous viewpoint, we can notice the prefix PRE here to mean before. In this viewpoint, the return of Christ will happen before the millennium. At the return of Christ, there will be a "catching up of believers to be with Christ," also referred to as "the Rapture" (1 Th. 4:1-18, 1 Cor. 15:50-52, John 14:1-3) to reference some of this truth. At that same time, there will be tribulation, a time of immense suffering before the millennium begins. Some believe this is a literal thousand years, while others in this view would hold to it as an extended period. Finally, there would be a time of rebellion at the end of the millennium. Satan will be let loose (Rev. 7-10) and then defeated, there will be a final judgment, and it is only after that final judgment will the eternal state begin.<sup>1,3</sup>

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Got Questions.org. What is postmillennialism

.<https://www.gotquestions.org/postmillennialism.html>

North View Church. Making the Case for Amillennialism.<https://youtu.be/-KVjOPJgFfg>

Right Response Ministries. Views of the End Times: Premillennialism, Postmillennialism, Amillennialism.<https://youtu.be/HdDhzonM6dQ>

WHS Pillsbury; *The Throne, The Lamb and The Dragon*, <https://rstyle.me/+3MshZrtRyiufpNiNcSteoA>

Eschatology must be included to have a well-rounded and well-balanced theology. The lens of eschatology can and will influence worldview and other biblical interpretations. Additionally, scripture tells us that the second coming of Christ will occur. Therefore, knowing and understanding Eschatology helps us to be informed and prepare our hearts for the coming Christ, regardless of when and where we meet him. Lastly, hope. Eschatology gives us hope, a reminder of the beauty yet to come (Rev. 21:4).

According to this view Christ will return AFTER the millennium

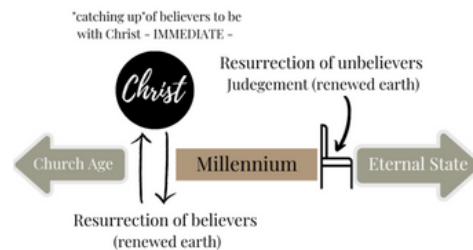
The prefix post means after. In the view of the POST MILLENNIAL, Christ will return after the millennium.



This view would hold that the progress of the gospel with the expansion of the church will turn more hearts to Christ. As a result there will be a "millennium" filled with peace and righteousness on earth. Finally at the end of this period, Christ will return to earth and the Eternal State will begin.

According to this view Christ will return BEFORE the millennium

The prefix pre means before. In the view of the PRE MILLENNIAL, Christ will return before the millennium.



This view would hold that the church age will continue until the "end times" where then there will be a tribulation. After the tribulation there will be a "millennium". At the end of the "millennium" satan will be set loose, then bound before the eternal state begins. There are differing thoughts when the new earth begin.

RESOURCES: 1. Erickson Millard, J. *Christian Theology third edition*. (2013) 2. James Montgomery Boice, *Foundations of the Christian Faith*, (1986) 3. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An introduction to Biblical Doctrine*, (Grand Rapids MI, 1994) 4. *Theology Handbook*, Daily Grace Co 2017, 5. Justo L. Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*, (2010)