

BASICS OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

Theology and Doctrine

Definitions

Theology – The systematic study of the existence and nature of the divine and its relationship to and influence upon other beings.

Doctrine – A body or system of teachings relating to a particular subject

Theological Understandings

- Knowing God (Revelation)
 - Universal & Particular Revelation
 - Psalm 19:1-4 (Universal)
 - Romans 1:18-20 (Paul's argument)
 - Romans 2:14-15 (Moral argument)
 - Particular Revelation (through his Word)
 - Jesus' incarnation
 - Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Peter 1:21)
 - Verbal Plenary Inspiration
 - Verbal Plenary Inerrancy
- What is God Like?
 - Greatness of God – We cannot know God completely
 - Spirituality – God is Spirit (John 4:24)
 - Personality – God is Personal (Exodus 3:14, Genesis 3)
 - Life – The LIVING God (Jeremiah (10:10-11)
 - Infinity – God is Infinite (Psalm 139:7-12)
 - Constancy – God is Unchanging (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17)
 - Goodness of God
 - Moral Purity
 - Holiness – apart from any evil (Exodus 15:11, Isaiah 6:1-4)
 - Righteousness – Perfect in relationship (Psalm 19:7-9)
 - Justice – Wages of sin and disobedience (Romans 6:23)
 - Fruits of obedience (Deuteronomy 7:9)
 - Fairness (1 Samuel 8:3, Habakkuk 1)
 - Integrity
 - Genuineness – God is Real (Jeremiah 10:5 & 10)
 - Veracity – what God says is true (1 Samuel 15:29, John 17:17)
 - Faithfulness – God keeps promises
 - Love – God's basic attribute
 - Benevolence – God's concern for the welfare of his children (Jn. 3:16)
 - Grace – Not what we deserve, but what we need (Ex. 34:6)

- Mercy – God’s compassion & tenderness (Psalm 103:13)
 - Persistence – God is long-suffering
 - Immanence and Transcendence (p. 249)
 - Immanence – Nearness of God, acting in human lives
 - Transcendence – Separate from and independent of nature and humanity
 - The Trinity – Three Persons, One God (p. 473)
- Christ
 - Person
 - Deity (John 1, John 3:13, John 8:58, John 14)
 - Humanity (Luke 2:52, John 11:33)
 - Work
 - Salvation
 - Revelation
- Holy Spirit
 - Person
 - Paraclete (John 14:16)
 - Divinity (Heb 9:14, Rom 15:19, Heb 1:10-12)
 - Work
 - Glorification of Christ (John 16:14)

Arguments for the Existence of God

- Cosmological Argument
 - Existence of the Universe
 - Causation
- Teleological Argument
 - Intelligent Design
 - Rock & Watch Argument
- Moral Argument
 - Universal morality
 - Why are we obliged to act morally?