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Curriculum Catalog

Christian Theology

Table of Contents

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY COURSE OVERVIEW	2
UNIT 1: GOD'S REVELATION	2
UNIT 2: GOD'S IDENTITY	2
UNIT 3: GOD'S ENGAGEMENT.....	3
UNIT 4: GOD'S PROVISION	3
UNIT 5: GOD'S VICTORY.....	3
SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES	3

Christian Theology Course Overview

Christian Theology introduces students to the study of theology and the major topics addressed in systematic theology: Revelation, theology proper (the doctrine of God), Christology, pneumatology, soteriology, ecclesiology, and eschatology. The course will:

- provide students with a sound theological foundation within the Protestant, evangelical tradition without promoting a particular stream within that tradition.
- under the presupposition that good theology is practical theology, help students apply theological truths to everyday experience.

In this course, students will examine:

- God's Revelation
- God's Identity
- God's Engagement
- God's Provision
- God's Victory

By the end of the course, students will be expected to do the following:

- Identify the major topics encountered in the study of systematic theology.
- Engage in conversations about God's trinitarian identity and God's multi-faceted work in creation among humans.
- Acquire insight into God's work in their lives – past, present, and future.
- Encounter the three persons of the Trinity, intellectually and personally.
- Develop the ability to evaluate truth claims through a Christian worldview lens.
- Engage in thoughtful theological reflection, using biblical data and reliable secondary sources.
- Establish a firm foundation for life-long learning.

Unit 1: God's Revelation	
Christian Theology	Assignments
	1. The Study of Theology, Part 1
	2. The Study of Theology, Part 2
	3. The Purpose of Theology
	4. The Ground of Theology
	5. The Sources of Theology
	6. The Method of Theology

Unit 2: God's Identity	
Christian Theology	Assignments
	1. The Existence of God
	2. The Person of God
	3. The Triune Nature of God
	4. The Work of God in Creation
	5. The Worship of God

Unit 3: God's Engagement	
Christian Theology	Assignments
	1. The Person of the Son
	2. The Incarnation of the Son
	3. The Work of the Son
	4. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of the Son
	5. The Ascension and Session of the Son
	6. The Person of the Holy Spirit
	7. The Work of the Holy Spirit
	8. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Unit 4: God's Provision	
Christian Theology	Assignments
	1. The Origin of Humans
	2. The Constitutional Nature of Humans
	3. The Sinfulness of Humans
	4. The Salvation of Humans
	5. The Establishment of the Church
	6. The Mission of the Church
	7. The Governance of the Church
	8. The Worship of the Church
	9. The Sacraments/Ordinances of the Church

Unit 5: God's Victory	
Christian Theology	Assignments
	1. The Intermediate State
	2. The Second Coming of Jesus
	3. The General Resurrection
	4. The Final Judgment
	5. The Millennium
	6. The Restoration of Eden

Supplemental Resources

Students will need access to a Bible, either in print or online.

Students do not need to purchase a dictionary of theological terms to successfully complete Christian Theology.

Although students will find definitions for many theological terms in Christian Theology, they may find a current, reliable, and substantive dictionary of theological terms and concepts useful. They will find the following helpful:

Davie, Martin, Tim Grass, Stephen R. Holmes, John McDowell, and T. A. Nobel, editors. *New Dictionary of Theology: Historical and Systematic*, 2nd edition. IVP Academic, 2016.

Elwell, Walter A. editor. *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Baker, 1996.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionaries/bakers-evangelical-dictionary/>. Accessed on 26 December 2022.

Grenz, Stanley J, David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

McKim, Donald K. *The Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*. 2nd ed. Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

Trier, Daniel and Walter A. Elwell, editors. *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. 3rd edition. Baker Academic, 2017.

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If taking this course using the New American Standard Bible translation:

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If taking this course using King James Version Bible translation:

Scripture quotations taken from the King James Version Bible (KJV) are public domain and can be freely used without permission.

About the Author

Roy Williams holds a BA degree in Bible and Theology from Crown College (St. Bonifacius, MN), a MDiv degree from Sioux Falls Seminary, a MA degree in Theology from St. John's University School of Theology (Collegeville, MN), and a PhD degree in Historical Theology: Reformation and Post-Reformation from Calvin Theological Seminary. He began his teaching career in 1998, after nine years of congregational ministry (Christian and Missionary Alliance). As an educator, he has taught and facilitated courses in both the onsite and online learning environments. His teaching career includes teaching experience in both secondary and post-secondary classrooms. He began serving with Ignite Christian Academy in 2010. He and his wife live near Grand Rapids, MI. He is a member of Thornapple Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI.