

# Systematic Theology

## Session 1: Introduction

### I. Resources for Study


- A. Online Lectures
- B. Textbook and Workbook
- C. Group Sessions

### II. Our Teachers

- A. Textbook Author: Dr. Wayne Grudem
- B. Lecture Teacher: Dr. Bruce Ware

### III. Preface to An Introduction to Systematic Theology

- A. Biblical Basis
- B. Clear and Honest Explanation and Representation of Theological Positions
- C. Application to Everyday Life
- D. Evangelical Focus
- E. Doctrinal Unity
- F. Greater Doctrinal Understanding



#### IV. What Should our Expectations Be?

- A. This is the beginning of lifelong a journey
- B. We will encounter mystery and tension
- C. We will encounter diversity of opinions

#### V. Theological Triage

- A. A Call to Discernment (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21)
  - i. The Need for Discernment (1 John 4:1)
  - ii. The Foundation of Discernment (1 Peter 1:3-4)
  - iii. The Result of Discernment (Ephesians 4:11-14)
  - iv. The Hope for Discernment (Ephesians 4:15-16)
- B. Levels of Theological Triage
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Level Issues: **ESSENTIAL**  
*Approach: Militant Defense*
  - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Issues: **DEFINITIONAL**  
*Approach: Passionate Belief*
  - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Issues: **PREFERENTIAL**  
*Approach: Humble Explanation*
- C. Dangers of Theological Triage

#### VI. The Goal of Theology

- A. Bare Knowledge is Useless
- B. Bare Knowledge Produces Pride  
*Any pursuit of the knowledge of God that does not lead to love for God is sin!*
- C. Knowledge is Useful if it “builds up in love”
- D. Proper Theological Pursuit will Produce Passionate Love for God  
*Theology is a means to fulfilling the Greatest Commandment!*