

1) THINK! GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM. (2Timothy 2:7)

Read Philippians 3:8-11. What do you find yourself thinking about first thing in the morning? What are the last thoughts that go through your mind before you go to sleep at night? Whatever you find yourself thinking about most is what is worth most to you. Do your thoughts reveal that Jesus is your highest treasure?

Read 2Timothy 2:7 and Proverbs 2:1-6. What is the relationship between our thinking and God's giving understanding? How has God used your thinking to give you understanding about him, his world, and his relationship to you? Do you try to take shortcuts to knowing God without the discipline of rigorous thinking? How likely is it that God would reveal himself to someone who avoids thinking deeply about him?

Notre Dame researcher, Christian Smith, has labeled the theological thinking of the younger generation of so-called Christians as "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism." How does this differ from the high definition theological thinking required by systematic theology? How much of your thinking about God has been in standard definition. Are ready for High Definition thinking or does it sound intimidating. Why or why not?

Read Titus 2:1 and Romans 16:17 and Eph. 4:14. Have you heard people say, "Doctrine divides"? According to these scriptures, what does doctrine do? How have you seen doctrine be a source of unity and alignment around the critical mission of the church?

Wayne Grudem defines systematic theology as *any study that answers the question, "What does the whole Bible teach us today?" about any given topic.*¹ He defines doctrine as *what the whole Bible teaches us today about some particular topic.*² What doctrines in the bible are you most and least familiar with?

2) THINK! GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE HIM. (1Corinthians 8:1-3)

Would you describe yourself as a THINKER or a FEELER? How does this affect your relationship with God and your expectations when you come to worship?

Why is thinking deeply about God without feeling deep love for God dangerous?

Why is feeling deeply about God without thinking deeply about the doctrines of God dangerous?

Which are you most prone to do?

List wrong feelings you experience as a result of wrong thinking?

List right feelings you experience as a result of right thinking?

¹ Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 21.

² Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 25.

3) THINK! GOD WANTS US TO OBEY HIM.**A) Doctrine trains us for serving Jesus.**

Read 1Timothy 4:6. How are you being trained to be a good servant of Christ? Who is training you? Who are you training?

B) Doctrine is displayed in our character

Read Titus 2:6-10. How are you adorning the doctrine of God with your integrity and dignity? Has anyone been attracted to your doctrine by observing your character?

C) Doctrine will be despised.

Read 2Timothy 4:3. What evidence do you see of this verse in our culture today? What can be done about it? Have you pulled away teaching that emphasizes high definition doctrine for more appealing messages that make much of you?

D) Doctrine drives desire.

Read 1Timothy 1:8-11. Do you believe theology has the power to conquer biology? How has your theology governed your biological urges?

E) Doctrine transforms everything.

Read 2Timothy 3:10. Paul experienced a complete transformation when God changed his thinking. Is this happening to you?

Additional Scripture

- Isaiah 55:6-9
- John 4:22-24
- Matthew 22:37
- Matthew 28:18
- 2John 9-10