

Why Theology Matters

Scripture

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...” *Romans 12:2*

“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.” *Titus 2:1*

Study

Theology: Loving God With Our Minds

- Theology is what one believes about God and about everything in light of God.
- The purpose of theology is to better know, glorify, and live for God.
- Theology is for everyone because everyone is a theologian.

Gospel-Centered

- The gospel is the power unto salvation, the climax of the biblical story, and the center of Christian theology.
- Theology helps the church understand the gospel in order to live in accordance with it.
- Theology defines and defends the gospel.

Bible-Based

- Sources for theology include experience, reason, and tradition, but Scripture alone is the ultimate authority for doctrine and practice.
- The Bible includes rules, directions, principles, and examples; however, the Bible is ultimately a story of redemption.
- The biblical story of redemption consists of four acts: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration.
- Understanding the story of the Bible is essential for:
 - Knowing God: God reveals Himself in the history of salvation.
 - Knowing ourselves: We discover our identity and role as we find our place within God’s story.

Life-Changing

- Belief informs behavior.
- Theology is not so much about information as it is about transformation.

Discussion

- Before today, what was your perception of theology and doctrine?
- How do people’s beliefs about God impact the way they live their lives?
- How does understanding the Bible as a story impact the way we read it?
- Can you summarize the story of the Bible in a sentence? Give it a try!