

SOUND DOCTRINE & THE SINGLE ADULT



Spring Conference 2026

A WORKING DEFINITION OF SOUND DOCTRINE

(cf. TITUS 1:9)

Sound doctrine is rightly collecting, knowing, and understanding the whole body of truth in Scripture and clinging to it as a lifeline for spiritual life.



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SURVEY FROM LIGONIER AND LIFEWAY

2022

- “Can God Change?” – 48% of professing evangelicals said *yes*.
- “Are we born innocent?” – 65% of professing evangelicals agree.
- “Does God accept the worship of all religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam?” – 56% of professing evangelicals said *yes*.
- “Jesus was a great teacher, but he was not God.” – 43% of professing evangelicals agreed
- 26% agree that the Bible is helpful but not true
- 38% agree that belief is a matter of personal opinion, not truth.



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“It is a lamentable fact that in this land of churches and of Bibles there are many who know little more of the doctrines of Christianity than the pagans themselves.”

ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, PRINCETON SEMINARY (1800S)



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SOUND DOCTRINE AND THE SINGLE ADULT

Session 1: The Practical Reasons We Need Sound Doctrine

Session 2: The Biblical Models to Learn Sound Doctrine

Session 3: The Key Commitments to Grow in Sound Doctrine



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

I. A Working Definition of Theology

- A discourse, teaching, or formal expression about the God of the Bible



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“The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God and what duties God requires of man.”

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM (Q3)



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

I. A Working Definition of Theology

II. A Working Definition of Systematic Theology

- Seeks to bring together all of the Bible and neatly organizes it into categories—which, in turn, gives us a standardized discourse about God.

➤ Sound Doctrine!



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“Evangelical truths are spread and scattered about in the sacred Scriptures; and to gather them together, and dispose of them in a regular orderly method, surely cannot be disagreeable.”

JOHN GILL, BODY OF DIVINITY



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“The duty of the Christian theologian is to ascertain, collect, and combine all the facts which God has revealed concerning himself and our relation to Him.”

CHARLES HODGE, SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Theology
- II. A Working Definition of Systematic Theology
- III. The Standard Categories of Systematic Theology



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III. The Standard Categories of Systematic Theology

1. Prolegomena
2. Bibliology
3. Theology Proper
4. Christology
5. Pneumatology
6. Anthropology
7. Hamartiology
8. Soteriology
9. Ecclesiology
10. Angelology
11. Eschatology



THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Theology
- II. A Working Definition of Systematic Theology
- III. The Standard Categories of Systematic Theology
- IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology

A. The Scriptural Confessions of Faith

- i. Old Testament Israel: Yahweh Is One (Deut. 6:4)
- ii. New Testament Church: Jesus Is Lord (Rom. 10:9–10)

**Application: Any scriptural confession demands a sound doctrinal foundation*



THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology

- A. The Scriptural Confessions of Faith
- B. The Ministry of Jesus Christ

*Application: Any truth claim from Scripture demands a sound doctrinal foundation



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology

- A. The Scriptural Confessions of Faith
- B. The Ministry of Jesus Christ
- C. The Emphasis of the Pastoral Epistles (1–2 Tim; Titus)



“teach and preach these principles’ [cf. 1 Tim. 6:2–3)
... [means the] whole of Christian theology is
commended to Timothy.”

PETRUS VAN MASTRICHT



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- A. The Scriptural Confessions of Faith
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- C. The Emphasis of the Pastoral Epistles (1–2 Tim; Titus)

*Application: Every true church—including pastors and laypersons—is exhorted to have a sound doctrinal foundation.



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology

- A. The Scriptural Confessions of Faith
- B. The Ministry of Jesus Christ
- C. The Emphasis of the Pastoral Epistles (1–2 Tim; Titus)
- D. The Men at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)

*Application: Defending the gospel and living a joyful Christian life flows out of a sound doctrinal foundation.



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IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology

- A. The Scriptural Confessions of Faith
- B. The Ministry of Jesus Christ
- C. The Emphasis of the Pastoral Epistles (1–2 Tim; Titus)
- D. The Men at the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)
- E. The Ministry of the Apostle Paul
- F. The Author of Hebrews
- G. The Analogy of Faith



“Scripture taken as a whole and used as a standard of comparison for any and all of its parts. Compare texts that may seem obscure or hard to understand with the plainer texts.”

JOEL BEEKE, REFORMED SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



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“No one who abides in Him [Christ] sins.”

1 JOHN 3:6



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- E. The Ministry of the Apostle Paul
- F. The Author of Hebrews
- G. The Analogy of Faith
- H. The Trustworthy Sayings in the NT



“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners,
among whom I am foremost of all.”

1 TIMOTHY 1:15



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THE BIBLICAL MODELS TO LEARN SOUND DOCTRINE

- I. A Working Definition of Theology
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- III. The Standard Categories of Systematic Theology
- IV. The Biblical Models of Systematic Theology



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“The study of religious truth ought to be undertaken and prosecuted from a sense of duty, and with a view to the improvement of the heart. When learned, it ought not to be laid on the shelf, as an object of speculation; but it should be deposited deep in the heart, where its sanctifying power ought to be felt.”

J. L. DAGG, MANUEL OF THEOLOGY



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