

The Nature of Systematic Theology

I: -- Negatively

- 1] It is *not* the imposition of a pre-selected system that determines what theology is allowed to say.
- 2] It is *not* the imposition of a philosophy (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel or Heidegger) on theology.
- 3] It is *not* the claim that God can be **comprehended**. Yet because God reveals himself, God can be **apprehended** in faith.

Faith is a form of knowing. God is therefore known truly and adequately but never exhaustively.

II: Positively

- 4] It attempts to show the inter-connection of aspects of Christian truth; e.g., creation, fall, calling of Israel ...incarnation, cross, ecclesiology, eschatology. In this regard it is always asking the question, “What is the theo-*logic* operative here?”
- 5] It attempts to grasp the truths of revelation as the Truth of God; i.e., the reality of God’s self-revelation as a whole.
- 6] It attempts to relate the truth of God to the world that the church engages.