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01

Introduction

Learn what this study is all about.

Beginning

Welcome to our journey into the heart of what we believe! Everyone, no matter where they start, holds some set of beliefs about God and our relationship with Him. These beliefs may not always be clearly defined, and we might not even know where they come from, but they are the foundation of our spiritual lives.

In this course, we're going to dig deep into these beliefs, exploring their roots and understanding why we hold them. Think of it as constructing a spiritual house, where each belief is a building block. By the end of our time together, you'll have a clearer picture of what your spiritual house looks like and why it stands the way it does.

Let's start with where you are right now. Whether you're new to theology or have been studying it for years, this course is for everyone. It's an opportunity to take a closer look at the beliefs that shape your faith.

First, take a few moments to jot down some things you believe to be true about God. Don't worry about being comprehensive—just list five or six key points that come to mind.

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Next, think about where these beliefs come from. Reflect on the books, people, or experiences that have influenced your understanding of God throughout your life. Write down things that come to mind.

Theology & Doctrine

Theology

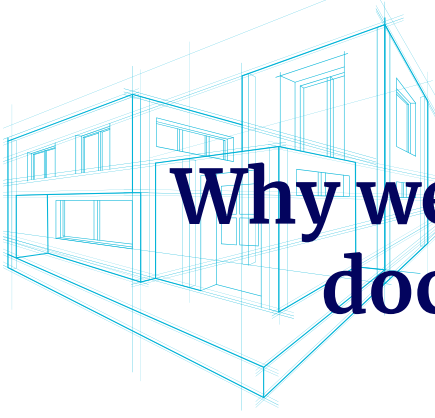
Theology is the broader, more academic discipline that involves the study of God, religious beliefs, and the nature of the divine. It is an ongoing exploration that includes questioning, interpreting, and understanding various aspects of faith. Theology engages with religious texts, traditions, reason, and experience to develop a deeper understanding of spiritual truths. It is often more speculative and open-ended, allowing for diverse interpretations and new insights.

Doctrine

Doctrine, refers to the specific, established beliefs or teachings that are officially endorsed by a religious community or institution. Doctrines are the conclusions that arise from theological study, and they are considered authoritative and binding for members of that faith. They provide clear guidelines on what is believed to be true about key aspects of the faith, such as the nature of God, salvation, and moral conduct. Unlike theology, which can be exploratory, doctrine is more fixed and is used to maintain consistency and unity within the religious community.

Summary

In summary, theology is the process of exploring and understanding religious truths, while doctrine is the set of conclusions or teachings that emerge from that process and are accepted as official beliefs.

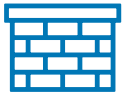


Why we need a theological and doctrinal framework...



Clarity & Consistency

Growth In Faith



Spiritual Stability

Guidance for Living



In the circle to the right, rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10.

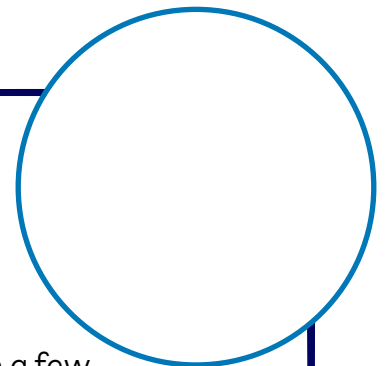
1 = I have little or no theological/doctrinal knowledge

3 = I have a little knowledge, but it does not all fit together.

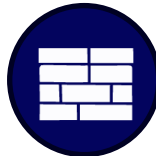
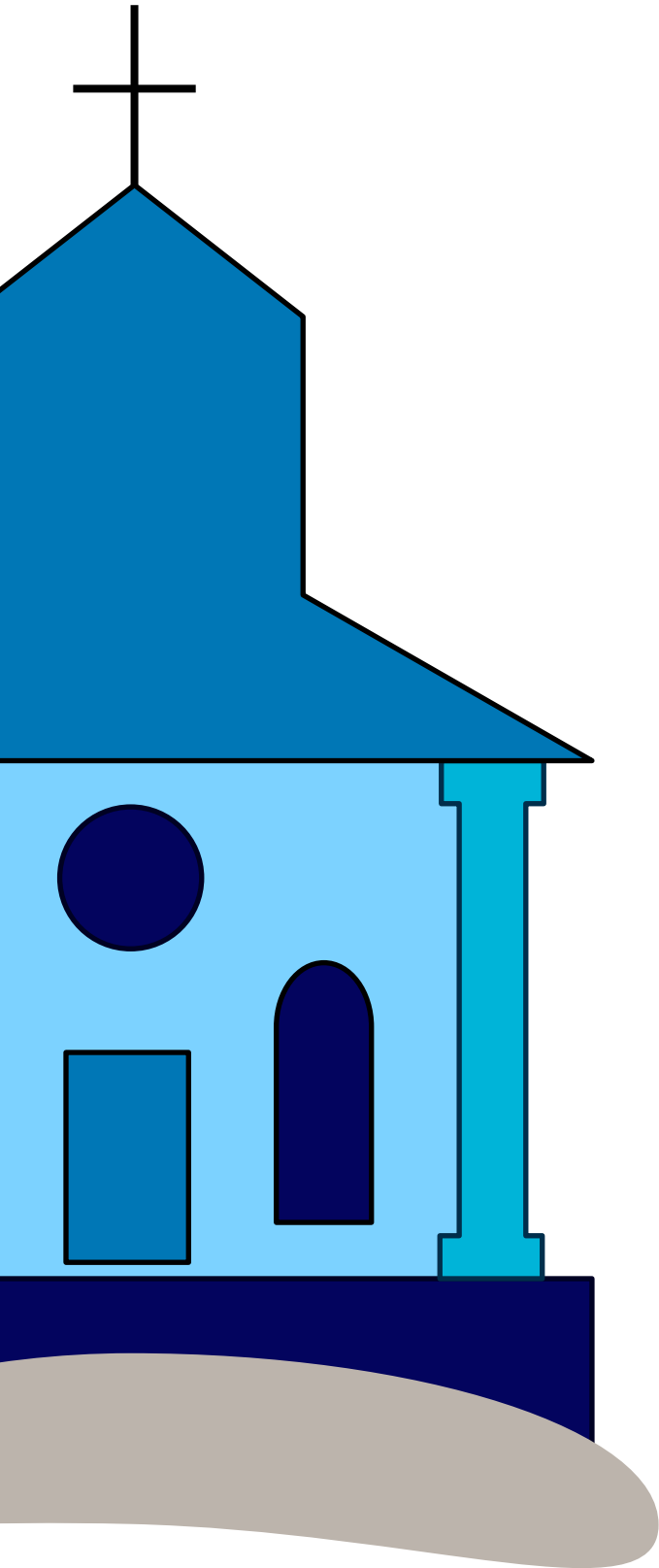
5 = I have some understanding, and I am working to fit it together

8 = I feel good about what I know and how it fits together, but I have a few questions

10 = I have a solid understanding, and I use it to live out my faith every day.



COMPONENTS OF A SPIRITUAL HOUSE



What we are going to do!



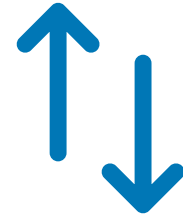
Learn

Understanding
& Remembering



Apply

Learning to
Live it Out



Evaluate

Compare
& Contrast

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

ESV Romans 12:2

Write down three things you hope to gain from this course.

1.

2.

3.