

LIFE GROUP SERMON QUESTIONS

Street Level Doctrine: An Introduction to Theology Proper

April 6 and 7, With Pastor Bryce

Big Idea:

Understanding who God is and what He does should impact the way we walk, talk, work, raise our children, spend our free time, etc. We don't want to be eggheads. We want to know our theology, but we also want to live it – we want it to flow from our heads, into our hearts, and out of our mouths and hands and feet.

Ice Breaker:

- In school, when you had a complex subject to study or prepare for a big test, what techniques did you use so that you were ready?

My Story:

- When you were a kid, how would you have explained to someone who God is?
- Let's say someone at work/school, tomorrow asks you who God is; how would you answer them?

Quick Review:

Take a look over your sermon notes from this week. Is there any principle, illustration, or point that caught your attention or that you would like to clarify or discuss with your group?

Digging Deeper:

1. Pastor Bryce gave us some good definitions of *theology* this weekend. In the simplest of terms, theology means “the study of God.” Often, we can view theology as some scholarly task that only seminary students and pastors do. But, the previous definition might change our view. RC Sproul once said, “The purpose of theology is not to tickle our intellects but to instruct us in the ways of God so that we can grow up into maturity and fullness of obedience to Him. That is why we engage in theology.”

- When you think of “theology,” what actions or people come to your mind?
- The truth is that “doing theology” is any action that leads us to think about God. In Deuteronomy 6, God calls the Israelites to action based on who He is and what He has done. In a way, he is calling them to do theology. Read the passage below, and then answer the following question: What actions do you already do or could you do to practice theology?

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, 2 so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. 3 Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

2. *“Worship is ascribing worth to something or someone. But true worship is also a matter of the heart. True worship is a heartfelt expression of love, adoration, admiration, fascination, wonder, and celebration. It's something that happens in your heart and soul when you begin to praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He has done.” - **Chip Ingram**.* Often, when we gather to worship on a weekend, we can forget *why* we worship, and we can forget that worship is a lifestyle, something we take with us. Read these two passages together, and look for two things: Belief and knowledge about God and man’s response to that belief and knowledge.

Romans 1:18-25

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Psalms 95:1-7

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.*

- Everyone “does theology.” As you compare and contrast these two passages, How can we ensure that the result of our “doing theology” is worship, like in the Psalm, and not sin, like described in Romans 1?

Take it Home: *What you believe about God theologically inevitably affects how you live for him practically. What is one thing you are taking away from this weekend’s sermon or Life Group? Is there something that you put into practice?*