

How to Write a Doctrinal Synthesis for All It's Worth

Tuesday, November 8th, 2022

Brief Statement: What are the most important points?

Example: *The God of Scripture is revealed as one God, eternally existing as three persons (Matt 28:19; Jn 15:26).*

- Concise key points in language you would've understood prior to the class.
- DTS Turabian Supplement: https://library.dts.edu/Pages/RM/Write/turabian_sup.pdf

Old Testament

Gen	Genesis	Song or (Cant)	Song of Songs (or Canticles)
Exod	Exodus	Isa	Isaiah
Lev	Leviticus	Jer	Jeremiah
Num	Numbers	Lam	Lamentations
Deut	Deuteronomy	Ezek	Ezekiel
Josh	Joshua	Dan	Daniel
Judg	Judges	Hos	Hosea
Ruth	Ruth	Joel	Joel
1-2 Sam	1-2 Samuel	Amos	Amos
1-2 Kgs	1-2 Kings	Obad	Obadiah
1-2 Chr	1-2 Chronicles	Jonah	Jonah
Ezra	Ezra	Mic	Micah
Neh	Nehemiah	Nah	Nahum
Esth	Esther	Hab	Habakkuk
Job	Job	Zeph	Zephaniah
Ps/Pss	Psalms	Hag	Haggai
Prov	Proverbs	Zech	Zechariah
Ecc (or Qoh)	Ecclesiastes (or Qoheleth)	Mal	Malachi

New Testament

Matt	Matthew	1-2 Thess	1-2 Thessalonians
Mark	Mark	1-2 Tim	1-2 Timothy
Luke	Luke	Titus	Titus
John	John	Phim	Philemon
Acts	Acts	Heb	Hebrews
Rom	Romans	Jas	James
1-2 Cor	1-2 Corinthians	1-2 Pet	1-2 Peter
Gal	Galatians	1-2-3 John	1-2-3 John
Eph	Ephesians	Jude	Jude
Phil	Philippians	Rev	Revelation
Col	Colossians		

Detailed Exposition: What are the key elements of the doctrine?

Example: *I believe in the one,¹ eternal² God that is revealed³ in Scripture.^{4 5}*

- Clear propositional statements with technical language. Cover all areas listed in syllabus.

Endnotes: How can you defend your claims?

- Arabic numerals, following punctuation in detailed exposition.
- Single spaced, 10 point font, left justified. Indent first line only.
- Citation example:

Glenn R. Kreider, "Wise Unto Salvation: Gospel, Atonement, and Saving Grace," in Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Savigel, eds., *Exploring Christian Theology*, vol. 2, Creation, Fall, and Salvation (Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2015), 127.

See Kreider, "Wise Unto Salvation," in Holsteen and Savigel, *Exploring Christian Theology*, 125

Resources to Start With

- **Biblical-Exegetical:**
 - ECT "Passages to Remember" chapter
 - Commentaries on relevant scripture (Consult Logos Library)
 - Greek/Hebrew works if applicable: Lexicons, Syntax if relevant
 - Bible dictionaries
- **Historical-Theological:**
 - Systematic Theologies:
 - *Christian Theology*, Alister McGrath
 - *Practicing Christian Doctrine*, Beth Felker Jones
 - *Basic Theology*, Charles Ryrie
- **Scientific-Philosophical:**
 - Utilize integration: philosophy, psychology, counseling methods, etc.
 - Do not be scared to venture into other disciplines if they support your argument.
 - Be creative.
- *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem
- *Christian Theology*, Millard Erickson
- Logos "Factbook" Tool
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxAI92ijwE>
- Works Cited in Required Textbooks
- ECT "Voices from the Past" Chapter

Tips & Tricks

Pray. Take breaks. Talk about it with friends. Think of how you can integrate what you love most into the task of this assignment.

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