

Pursue a Balanced Theology:

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Does your theological idea, proposition, or doctrine bring God the most glory?

Are you Spirit-controlled, rightly yielded to Him?

UNNECESSARY DOGMATISM

Avoid Logical fallacies!

Are you prideful? What is your intention in pursuing this idea, proposition, or doctrine?

Be Careful!

Be Skilled!

Avoid what is sensational!

Is your theological idea, proposition, or doctrine logical? (e.g., law of non-contradiction).

Does your theological idea or proposition possess accurate exegesis (proper grammatical-historical-literary context)?

Don't be impatient, be determined!

Avoid *hero* worship!

Be *sensitive* to competitive & reasonable views.

DIVERSION

INDIFFERENCE

Avoid what is trivial!

Does your theological idea, or proposition agree with the *whole* of the Bible (systematic)?

What correlative insight does historical theology bring to your idea, proposition, or doctrine?

Do not be willfully ignorant

Say nothing more & nothing less than what the whole Bible teaches.

Be Comprehensive!

Be Wise!

Be careful of oppression & weariness.

Consider the consequences to this idea, belief, or doctrine.

Don't be selective to suit your own preferences & cultivate your own biases, passions, and desires.

Avoid what is non-beneficial to the health of the community.

Pursue what matters most to God!

UNHEALTHY DOUBT

1. If you isolate the mind from loving God with your deep seated affections, conscious thought life, and bodily powers, then you will have cultivated fertile ground for pride to grow.
2. If you isolate the mind from loving God with your deep seated affections, conscious thought life, and bodily powers, then you will have cultivated fertile ground for unnecessary dogmatism to grow.
3. If you isolate the mind from loving God with your deep seated affections, conscious thought-life, and bodily powers, then you have cultivated fertile ground for unhealthy doubt and skepticism to grow.
4. If you isolate your deep-seated affections, conscious thought-life, and bodily powers from loving God with your mind, that is, your ability to reason, judge, and deliberate, then you have cultivated fertile ground for anti-intellectualism to grow.
5. Never study theology in isolation of actively participating in community. If you do isolate yourself, then you will become dysfunctional spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and intellectually.
6. If you isolate your theological studies from community, then you have cultivated fertile ground for weariness and oppression to set in. Your studies will eventually become a "duty, not a "pleasure" and an "honor."
7. If you neglect your theological studies from worship, then you will have ignored the opportunity to grow in conformity to "true truth." MAKE YOUR STUDIES AN EXPRESSION OF WORSHIP.
8. Test every truth-claim by examining whether it is logical, exegetically accurate, and theologically coheres with the whole of Scripture. Dismiss any truth-claim that does not harmonize with these three tests.
9. You are not the determiner, but the discoverer of doctrine; not the magistrate, but the minister of doctrine; not the regulator, but the recognizer of doctrine; not the judge, but the witness of doctrine; not the master, but the servant of doctrine.
10. Never ignore the correlative value of natural theology, church history, and consequences. What insight is offered by history?
11. You are never immune to sin. Sin will take you places you never thought you would go. Stand firm against the devil, but immediately flee from sin.
12. The Christian life is not merely content, but conviction; not merely conviction, but communication; not merely communication, but consistency." ~ Ravi Zacharias.