Definitions of Theology

Erickson- "That discipline which strives to give a coherent statement of the doctrines of the Christian Faith, based primarily upon the Scriptures, placed in the context of culture in general, worded in a contemporary idiom and related to issues of life."

Carson- "Christian Theology whose internal structure is systematic, i.e., it is organized on atemporal principles of logic, order, and need…it seeks to be rigorously systematic and is therefore concerned about how various parts of God's gracious self-disclosure cohere"

Packer- aim of sys. Theo. "to give the world a body of analyzed, tested, correlated knowledge concerning God in relation to his creatures in general and to mankind in particular" It is Bible-based, Christ-centered and Church-oriented

Kantzer- "…putting it all together in a single focus to enable us to know what we must think or do"

Grudem- "Systematic theology is any study that answers the question, 'What does the Whole Bible teach us today?' about any given topic?…summarizing [Scripture's] teachings clearly so that we know what to believe about each topic.

Radant- "…to produce an orderly system of theological ideas that serve as a framework in which any and all theological questions can be addressed", "…[to] synthesize and organize the many aspects of that knowledge most helpfully…[to] have a clear understanding of each part and of the whole, and be able to communicate it well to others."

Packer- "How may we best state and apply the complete Christian faith, topic by topic and as a whole, in the light of current interests, doubts, assumptions, perplexities, questions, protests, and challenges?"

1. Systematic Theology is Topical
2. Systematic Theology is Logical- systematic, organized, coherent- parts with whole
3. Systematic Theology seeks to be contemporary- language and application

Grudem, "Systematic Theology, on the other hand, makes use of the material of Biblical Theology and often builds on the results of Biblical Theology….But the focus of systematic theology remains different: its focus is on the collection and then the summary of the teaching of all the Biblical passages on a particular subject….It attempts to summarize the teaching of Scripture in a brief, understandable, and very carefully formulated statement."