

Café Theology Week 1

Introduction to Theology

- Towards a definition of theology: *theos* and *logos*

- Art or science?

- Christian theology

- The main strands of theology
 1. Biblical Studies
 2. Church History
 3. Systematic Theology
 4. Ethics

- Other traditional components
 1. Scripture
 2. Tradition
 3. Reason
 4. Others besides: especially experience; possibly mission and culture too

- Where does Café Theology fit in?

- Ground rules for discussion

- Head-knowledge and heart-knowledge

Creation

- “Our story in one minute” clip

 - Personal v. impersonal view of Creation

 - Five key perspectives on Creation
1. Creation is personal

 2. Creation has purpose

 3. Creation has value

 4. Creation has order and beauty

 5. Creation is utterly dependent on God
- Practical response to Creation

Discussion Questions

(More understanding-based)

- What struck you in Lloyd's chapter on Creation or in what you heard this evening?
- What can we learn from a theology of Creation about God?
- What can we learn from a theology of Creation about ourselves?
- What are the implications of creation belonging to God?
- How would you respond to someone arguing that science has disproved God?

(More application-based)

- How should someone who believes that there is a Person behind the universe live in an impersonal world?
- How can we help others to believe in their own value?
- How can we help ourselves to believe in our own value?
- How good do you believe creation to be?

Useful Scriptures

Genesis 1-2 (especially 1:1, 1:26, 1:31, 2:15, 2:19-20)

Psalms 19:1; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 104:24-26; Psalm 139:7-10

Job 38-41

Habakkuk 2:14

Matthew 6:28; John 17:5

2 Corinthians 5:4; Romans 4:17; Ephesians 1:9-10; Colossians 1:16

Further Reading Suggestions

Those listed in *Café Theology*:

Denis Alexander, *Rebuilding the Matrix* (2001)

Tom Torrance, *The Christian Frame of Mind: Reason, Order and Openness in Theology and Natural Science* (1989)

Edith Schaeffer, *Hidden Art* (1971)

James Sire, *The Universe Next Door: A Guide to World Views* (1976)

Sister Margaret Magdalen, *Jesus – Man of Prayer* (1987)

Francis Schaeffer, *Pollution and the Death of Man* (1970)

Andrew Linzey and Tom Regan, *Compassion for Animals* (1988)

AM's Suggestions:

Karl Barth, *Dogmatics in Outline* (SCM, 2012 edition accessible)

Brian Rosner and Andrew Cameron, *Trials of Theology* (2010)

Graham Tomlin, *The Widening Circle: Priesthood as God's Way of Blessing the World* (2014)

Lincoln Harvey, *A Brief Theology of Sport* (2014)

Lincoln Harvey is lecturer of systematic theology at St Mellitus College, London. I benefited greatly from his lectures on systematic theology when I attended in 2015. This book considers the relationship between sport and the theology of Creation.