Essay Questions

LESSON ONE

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT GOD



1. What is divine revelation? List four ways that God has revealed himself in human terms (anthropomorphic revelation). Include specific examples from Scripture.

2. Explain both general and special revelation. How does God use each type to reveal himself to us?

3. What do theologians mean when they talk about "divine mysteries"? What is the difference between temporary mysteries and permanent mysteries? Give examples of each.

4. How do systematic theologians define divine attributes? Why must we carefully distinguish between God's attributes and his historical manifestations when we study theology proper?

5. How do evangelicals define God's divine works? What does it mean that God "works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will" (Ephesians 1:11)?

6. The *Augsburg Confession* tells us that God is "the Maker and Preserver of all things." Explain the two types of divine works represented by this statement.

Essay Questions

LESSON TWO

HOW GOD IS DIFFERENT



1. Provide at least two Scripture references that illustrate the biblical foundation for studying God's incommunicable attributes. Clarify how each reference supports the outlook that God is wondrously different from his creation.

2. Evangelicals have created a variety of lists naming God's attributes. Compare and contrast the terms and phrases used for God's incommunicable attributes found in the three historical documents cited in this lesson.

3. When studying God's incommunicable attributes, we need to remember that God is both transcendent and immanent. What do these terms mean? How does Scripture support both perspectives?

4. Integrating God's attributes accords with the longstanding Christian doctrine of the simplicity of God. Explain what is meant by God's simplicity.

5. The historical documents cited in this lesson all affirm the value of integrating God's attributes. How is this idea distinguished in each of the three documents?

6. Choose three of God's communicable attributes listed in the Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 4. Explain how each can be integrated with God's incommunicable attributes. Cite Scripture texts to support your conclusions.

Essay Questions

LESSON THREE

HOW GOD IS LIKE US



1. What are the three formal strategies developed by medieval Scholastics for discerning truths about God's character from nature? Describe each strategy and give examples of how each appears in Scripture.

2. How do the Bible's outlooks on humanity reveal that God is like his creation? What can we learn about God through our understanding of human beings?

3. Why is it necessary for theologians to develop processes to study God's attributes? Name and describe two processes systematic theologians have used to approach this subject.

4. How are God's communicable attributes listed in each of the three historical documents reviewed in this lesson? Explain why these lists are similar despite differences in their technical terms.

5. What three broad categories do systematic theologians generally use to organize God's communicable attributes? Why is the biblical focus on the similarities between God and humanity crucial to organizing the communicable attributes of God?

6. Explain some practical implications associated with studying God's communicable attributes. How does exploring his communicable attributes help us to have proper expectations of God?

Essay Questions

LESSON FOUR

GOD'S PLAN AND WORKS



1. What do the Scriptures say about God planning in relation to his imminence? What do they say in relation to his transcendence? Cite specific examples from Scripture to support your response.

2. There are a variety of theological positions related to God's plan. Explain two extreme views, and then describe centrist evangelical outlooks on this subject.

3. In verses like Colossians 1:16, we see the initial twofold division that God established in creation. What is this twofold division, and what does it mean that creation is God's cosmic palace or temple?

4. What does the word "providence" mean? What does God's work of providence entail, and how does God accomplish his providence in the world?