

## H. Necessity of Systematic Theology

The attempt to develop a systematic approximation to God's perfect system of truth is necessary for three major reasons:

1. Systematic Theology is necessary because of the God-created correspondence between the structure of reality, the structure of truth, and the structure and operations of the human mind.

a. Objective reality is a system of objects and relationships. There is uniformity and coherence throughout the real universe. All of the objects in the universe are interrelated; i.e., changes in one part cause changes in other parts. The universe is thus a uni-verse, not a multi-verse.

b. Truth is the totality of all assertions that correspond to reality. Truth is a unity, a self-consistent and coherent whole. All truth is interrelated. Thus a science of the laws of true thought is possible (logic), and truth-claims can be tested for soundness or fallaciousness.

c. The human mind is so structured as to be able to know reality by means of true thought. The mind is able to construct a science of the laws of true thought. It is able to construct, as well as test, statements about reality, in order to know whether such statements correspond to reality or contradict or modify one another. The mind has a capability and tendency to interrelate, to see things in truth-relationships.

d. The structure of objective reality, the structure of truth, and the structure of the human mind all correspond to one another by virtue of the fact of Creation. God created man's mind to correspond with the structure of the external universe. Whenever man's mind systematizes the information that comes to him from the external universe, he apprehends truth. Then when he relates truths, he is systematizing; i.e., constructing a system of truth. If rightly constructed, such a system will yield a higher, fuller, and more accurate knowledge of truth than the simple apprehension of separate, unrelated truths about reality.

e. These principles hold true in the realm of theology. If the truths concerning spiritual reality are given in revelation, then we will wish not only to apprehend these truths, but also to systematize them. If spiritual reality is a unity, a system, then there is such a thing as a system of truths concerning spiritual reality, and then we will need to (and want to) discover that system by exegeting, systematizing, defining, and explaining the facts and meanings of God's revelation of truth.

2. Systematic Theology is necessary because of the relative lack of structured configuration in the teachings of the Bible.

a. Although there are some passages in Scripture that are classic texts for specific doctrines, yet in the main the contents of Scripture are like the unorganized observations of scientists, which form the raw material out of which hypotheses, theories, and laws are constructed. So also the student of theology constructs a system of doctrine out of the matter contained in Scripture.