

the Father, and the Father in Me"); and verse 12 speaks of confidence or trust ("he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also").

Just as faith has three aspects or levels, so theology -- which gives expression to faith - has three levels: the objective, the subjective, and the divine, which may be highlighted by the terms "IT", "I", and "THOU".

Moving from the scientific level to the personal level of theological theorizing, it becomes necessary to put ourselves into the picture, to genuinely relive historical revelation, to involve ourselves subjectively. Our question at this level becomes, "How does this relate to me?" Luther insisted that "you should read the story of the Fall as if it happened yesterday, and to you." This is the idea of personal involvement; and it must be a genuine part of theological theorizing.

However, just as theology is more than science, which seeks to formulate theories to fit facts, so it is more than the arts and humanities, which seek to enter personally into the heart of reality. Theology possesses a dimension that is unique to itself: the realm of the holy or sacral. This dimension may be illustrated by three Scriptures:

Isaiah 55:8 -- "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."

Exodus 3:4-6 -- "When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then He said, 'Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' He said also, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God."

Isaiah 6:3-5 -- "And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.' And the foundations of the threshold trembled at the voice of Him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. Then I said, 'Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. "

On the sacral level of theological theorizing, we recognize the incomprehensibility of God (and thus our inability to understand either Him or His Word exhaustively), and the holiness of God (and thus our own sinfulness); and therefore we recognize our need to approach God in Jesus Christ alone, together with the necessity of the Holy Spirit's illumination and guidance for all sound theological theorizing. All three levels -- the scientific, the personal, and the sacral -- are essential. This may be seen from what reductionisms have produced in the history of theology.