



SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

The Doctrine of God

Class Description: In this section of our Systematic Theology track, we'll explore the Doctrine of God—His existence, names, attributes, and the profound mystery of the Trinity. We'll also confront modern challenges to the biblical view of God and learn how to respond with truth and confidence.

Class Teacher: Dr. Jason Whitlock is a covenant member of Emmaus Church with a passion for teaching. He has his Master of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He also has a Master of Theology and a Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has five children - John Michael, Katie, Matthew, William, and Isabella.

Class Resources: *Introducing Christian Doctrine* by Millard Erickson will be provided, so please bring yourself with a notebook, Bible, and pen/pencil!

Class Outline: Here is an overview of the topics we will cover through the class.

Week 1 - Sunday, June 8

Title: Introduction to Theology Proper

Description: Theology Proper, "The Study of the Doctrine of God," is only one element of the larger category of Systematic Theology. So, in this first class we will discuss what Systematic Theology is and why it is important. We will also discuss what Theology Proper is, and how the Christian understanding of God is different from every other religion in the world. We will begin discussing the existence and attributes of God.

Week 2 - Sunday, June 15

Title: The Existence and Attributes of God

Description: In this lesson we will continue our discussion of the existence and attributes of God. What are the traditional arguments for His existence and how we defend our view against contemporary challenges. We will discuss His attributes, Communicable and Incommunicable, God's Eternality, Infinitude, Aseity, and Immutability. This discussion will lay the framework for the discussion of the Trinity over the following two weeks.

Week 3 - Sunday, June 22

Title: History of the Development of the Doctrine of the Trinity

Description: In this lesson we will examine how the doctrine of the Trinity developed in history. From the beginning of the Christian Church, believers worshipped Jesus as God, but also viewed the Father as somehow distinct from the Son. Careful thought over several centuries was needed to explain how God could be one God but in three persons. Notable historical moments will be discussed as well as notable figures such as Terullian and Augustine.

Week 4 - Sunday, June 29

Title: The Biblical Basis for the Doctrine of the Trinity

Description: In this lesson, we will conclude our study of the Trinity by examining its biblical foundation. We'll explore key Scripture passages that make it clear God cannot be understood as a solitary, singular person. Instead, He exists eternally in a loving relationship within Himself—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as revealed in the Bible. Our discussion will include the doctrine of Inseparable Operations and how the Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection all display the unified work of the Triune God. Through it all, we'll gain deeper insight into the truth that "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19)

Week 5 - Sunday, July 6

Title: The Coming of God, the Lord, in the Old Testament

Description: In this lesson, we will explore how God revealed Himself in the Old Testament, laying the foundation for His full revelation in the person and work of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. A key focus will be the concept of *theophany*—God's manifestation in time and space. We will examine how to recognize these appearances, their significance for interpreting Scripture, and their implications for the doctrine of *Immanence*, which speaks to God's active presence within His creation and His desire to make Himself known.

Week 6 - Sunday, July 13

Title: The Coming of God, the Lord, in the New Testament

Description: This lesson will be the continuation from our study of the coming of God in the Old Testament. Again, theophany is a key element to how God reveals Himself in His creation. Although the Father is transcendent, invisible, dwelling in unapproachable light, which no person has seen or can see, He manifests and makes Himself known through His Son, who is the image of God, the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.