



# The Liberal Arts Tradition

with Dr. Kevin Clark and Ravi Jain

## Lesson 16: Theology

### Outline:

*Through Christians reflecting on the Word of God become flesh in Jesus Christ and everything that he has done, they came to understand the world better. The great inheritance that was given to us from the classical world became that great inheritance by the world becoming Christian.*

Kevin Clark

### Theology: The Science of Divine Revelation

- Augustine's *Summa Theologica*: Is there any other study besides philosophy for humans to have all the other knowledge that they need?
  - Look at subject matter, you don't need some other science.
  - Is there some kind of knowledge that we get that is outside what can be known by unaided natural light of human reason. Yes!
    - *God graciously has made himself known in Creation and providential redemption and providential care in the words of the prophets and manifestly in the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ and the witness to that in the Holy Scriptures and the continual application of that in the life of the church and teachers that he has raised up and in our own lives.*



In the Christian classical school, theology takes a number of different forms in the curriculum.

- Bible study classes, Old Testament survey, New Testament survey, catechism classes, worldview and Christian apologetics classes, understanding the narrative from Creation to glorification
- Serious problems raised and addressed to Christians from critics
- Doubts and concerns that Christians have themselves in apologetics
- In some schools, there may be a mini-seminary experience.

Theology as a queen of the sciences can exert an influence over the entire curriculum.

- **Christian education is a work of theology.**
  - The hope of all of human life and longing is culminated in the vision of God.



- Theology informs the way we worship, pray, order time, and govern our interactions with each other.
- If God took the form of a servant, and that humility is the way to exaltation, what would we see in the earliest forms of piety in our school? How does humility mark the youngest students, and how do our teachers continually condescend to serve and teach their students?
  - Students can look back at how their teachers have done this.
- **Theology is the queen of the sciences, but she is a servant leader.**
- Theology was not practiced in the world before Christ.
  - Through Christians reflecting on the word of God become flesh in Jesus Christ and everything that he has done, they came to understand the world better. The great inheritance that was given to us from the classical world became that great inheritance by the world becoming Christian.
  - **The call to discipleship is a call to die to yourself, to take up your cross and follow Christ. God often puts things back together better than when we give them to him.**
  - **Classical education comes together in the Christian imagination.**
- Theology orders and unifies all the areas of human knowledge. That very confidence with which Christians can go into the world and seek to know it and understand it comes from believing in God.

We take the wonder and the love of the natural world out of science when we study what we call “normal science”. The same can happen in theology if we present it as a “normal science” where we memorize the answer to all of the questions.

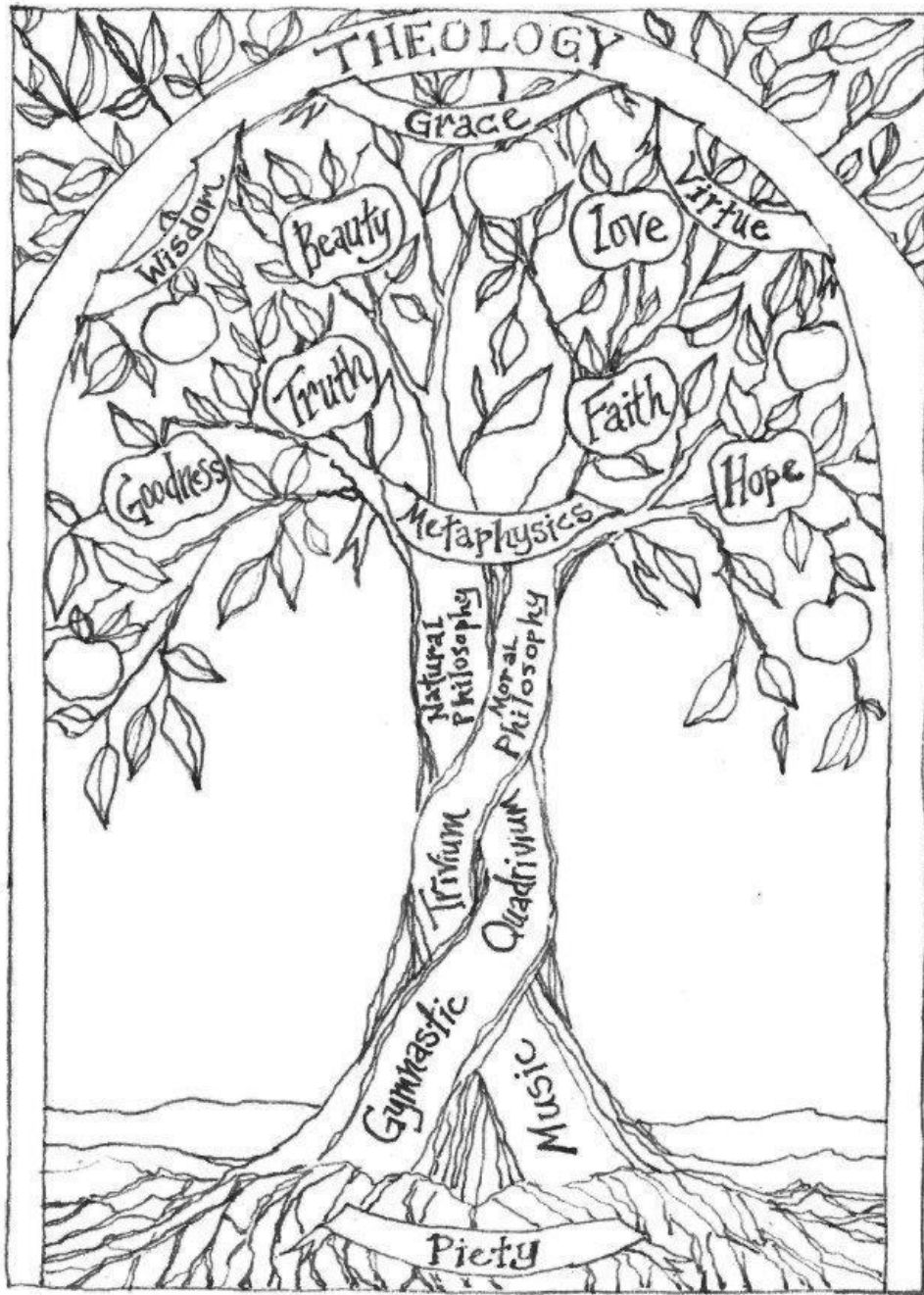
- As I am struggling to understand who Christ is, I stand side by side with Athanasius or Maximus the Confessor.
  - I start to see what kinds of questions they were asking.
  - I start to see the wonder, amazement, and mystery.
  - Orthodox theology is not a box that holds you in, it is a fence that marks out an area of play.

What is the reason that the Trivial Arts had to proceed the study of theology?

- The art of dialectic can help us understand that question that is at stake. The art of dialectic helps me perceive the question and gives something to follow.
- *The Word of God has been given to us in order to proclaim the gospel to the nation. That proclamation formed theology. Rhetoric as a way of knowing is a community of listeners and speakers coming together is found in the gospel.*
- We come to know who Christ is and to understand the Scriptures as we apply it in our proclamation.



Theology  
by Matthew Clark



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