

Herman Bavinck defined theology as "the scientific system of the knowledge of God."

Karl Barth defined theology (which he called "dogmatics") as "the science in which the Church, in accordance with the state of its knowledge at different times, takes account of the content of its proclamation critically, that is, by the standard of Holy Scripture and under the guidance of its Confessions."

Paul Tillich defined theology as "the methodical interpretation of the contents of the Christian faith."

Louis Berkhof defined theology as "the systematized knowledge of God in His various relations to the universe." He further states:

Theology... is the effect which the divine revelation, embodied in Scripture, produces in the sphere of systematic thought. Theology is the fruit of the reflection of the Church on the truth, revealed in the Word of God.

J. Oliver Buswell, Jr. defines theology as "the study which treats directly of God and His relationship to the world and to man."

L. Harold DeWolf defines Systematic Theology as "the critical discipline devoted to discovering, expounding and defending the more important truths implied in the experience of the Christian community."

John Macquarrie defines theology as "the study which, through participation in and reflection upon a religious faith, seeks to express the content of this faith in the clearest and most coherent language available."

Gordon Lewis and Bruce Demarest define theology as "the topical and logical study of God's revealed nature and purposes." They further state:

Systematic Theology not only derives coherent doctrines from the entirety of written revelation but also systematically relates them to each other in developing a comprehensive world view and way of life.

3. Some definitions of theology appear to emphasize "experience", or "the content of the Church's proclamation", or "the contents of Christian faith", or "the doctrine prevalent in a Church at a given time". Others appear to emphasize the "facts of divine revelation", or "truth revealed in the Word of God", or "written revelation".

Yet both kinds of definition use such terms as "science", "systematize", "methodical", and "systematic thought". And both kinds seem to agree that the subject matter of theology is God, divine things, and the relations which God sustains to the universe and mankind.

Nevertheless, although there are apparent points of agreement regarding the content of theology, one kind of definition appears to stress subjective experience as the source of theology's content, whereas the other kind