

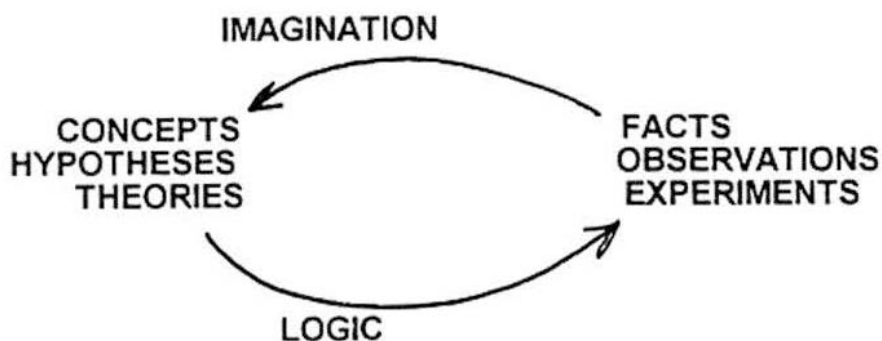
facts or deriving principles from them. He does not offer or suggest a set of operational guidelines by which to proceed in the theological task.

3. The contribution of John Warwick Montgomery

a. Highlights of Montgomery's paper, "The Theologian's Craft: A Discussion of Theory Formation and Theory Testing in Theology"

Theology was once considered "the Queen of the sciences". This points up the fact that "doing theology" or "theologizing" has a scientific aspect; i.e., it begins with the formation and testing of theories.

The scientist forms and tests theories; i.e., scientific theories. For the scientist, scientific theories are conceptual gestalts, built up retroductively through imaginative attempts to render phenomena intelligible (retroduction consists in studying facts and devising a theory to explain them). Theories in science are mental patterns that attempt to make sense out of facts. These mental patterns arise in the imagination, and are tested by logic. Whenever a theory fits all of the facts, it is said to be verified.



The theologian also forms and tests theories; i.e., theological theories. He attempts to formulate mental patterns (conceptual gestalts) that make sense out of the facts of Scripture. His mental patterns also arise in the imagination, and are tested by logic. Whenever a theological theory fits all of the biblical facts, it is said to be true.

A comparison of this process in science and theology may be charted: