

Being a Theologian of the Cross

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I. Theological Foundations

Being a Theologian of the Cross

Theology, Two Meanings

- Two Meanings, Senses
- 1) Theology as Content
- 2) Theology as Aptitude
- Examples: Do you love me?
- From knowing theology to becoming a theologian
- What is then is the “cross”?

Theologian, Two Types

- Everyone is a theologian...
- The question is: What type of theologian are you?
- Two Stories:
 - 1) Glory – Man looks good. God looks bad.
 - 2) Cross – Man looks bad. Lets God be God.
- Key question: Is the movement from God to us or from us to God?

Theologian of the Cross

- “The cross is our theology”
- 1) The cross leads us to die with Christ
- The cross attacks our best, our righteousness
- Works
- Will
- Example: Christ died for you. All you have to do...
- Reason (More on this later...)

Theologian of the Cross

- 2) The cross leads us to rise with Christ
- Celebrates God's works and will in Christ
- Key Thought: God kills in order to make alive
- Daily significance or use of Baptism
- Putting our works, will, and reason in their proper place
- Story: Luther goes to heaven

II. Practical Applications

Being a Theologian of the Cross

Justification by Grace

- 1) Justification before God
- The human need to justify one's life before someone
- Not by performance
- Not by choices, good or bad
- Not by condition or status in life, poor or rich
- Not by rationalizing God in the midst of suffering
- Key: Focus on God's works, will, and justification in Christ

Why Have You Forsaken Me?

- 2) Dealing with Suffering
- The problem of theodicy: Why some, not others?
- Example: Problems with justification through reason. Good looks bad.
- Holy silence in the face of the “hidden God”
- Praying without “explaining”
- Accompanying the sufferer
- Proclaiming the “revealed God” at the proper time

Dealing with Temptation

- 3) Temptation
- Rough times: Doubting God's promises
- God's devil: The devil is the best teacher of theology?
- The wilderness is real. Awareness of vulnerabilities.
- Reliance on God in the wilderness
- Prayer: Putting One's Life in God's Hands
- Word: Receiving God's Promises by Faith