

Theology, Culture, and the Gospel:

Encouraging Signs, Cautionary Comments, Some Suggestions

Ken Radant, ACTS Seminars – “Centering Gospel,” Feb 7, 2014

I. Introduction: “theology,” “contextualization,” gospel & culture

II. Theology: an increasingly prominent resource

I observe a rising tide of interest in theology: in the classroom, the church, and in the literature.

This is a healthy trend. Strong theological engagement ...

1. Increases transferability
2. Promotes continuity and durability
3. Fuels Bible study
4. Encourages integration
5. Provides an essential framework for healthy contextualization

III. Theology: a double-edged resource

Friendly cautions - a strong emphasis on theology brings with it some potential pitfalls:

1. Pursuit of endless detail
2. Loss of proportionality
3. Unreflective extrapolation
4. Either/Or Oversimplification
5. Naïve, Isolationist Biblicism
6. Priestly domination

Illustrations?

IV. Theology in the church: some practical advice

1. Allow exploration, but keep *re-centering*
2. Practice *analysis*; engage perspectives
3. Anchor and align all theology to “*biblical theology*”
4. Develop and apply *exegetical weighing criteria*
5. Affirm a *fully developed concept of revelation*; engage with godly professionals
6. Design and practice *community study*

V. Conclusion: a life-long project