

Practical Theology Method

**Isn't ALL
Theology
Practical?**

**Can there be an
IM-Practical
Theology?**



ORTHODOXY

**Holding to or agreement with commonly
accepted faith and established, correct or
sound doctrines**

- Ortho = right, correct or sound**
- Doxa = opinion, belief**
- Dokeein = thought or thinking**



ORTHOPRAXIS

- Ortho = right, correct or sound**
- Prassein = to do or accomplish**

**The practical application and
integration of commonly accepted
faith and correct or sound doctrines
into life disciplines and practice.**



Practical Theology Method

Definition: Practical Theology is the ongoing integration of theology into life.



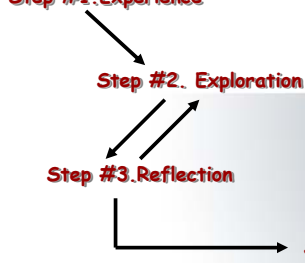
Practical Theology Method

Step #1. Experience

Step #2. Exploration

Step #3. Reflection

Step #4. Action



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Step 1. Experience:

- Clearly and critically assess current actions and responses.
- Attempt to discern "land mines" in analyzing current situation, circumstance or action.
- Develop an intellectual framework for assessing action.



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Step 2. Exploration:

- Does Scripture directly address this issue?
- Does the narrative of Scripture inform the issue?
- Consider other authoritative voices that inform the issue.

Tradition, Reason and Experience

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Step 3. Reflection:

- Prayerful consideration of action.
- Defining and/or redefining of convictions.
- Deliberate about personal embedded theology.
- Examination of God's desired will.
- Practice of spiritual disciplines: solitude; meditation, fasting, etc.

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Step 4. Action:

- Deliberate response vs "reaction"
- Work as an agent of change.
- Rearrange priorities.
- Change existing behaviors.
- Design a new plan of action.

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Step #1. Experience

Step #4. Action

Step #3. Reflection

Step #2. Exploration