



Philosophy Can Clarify the Meaning of Theology











"In addition to the legal guilt that God imputes to us because of Adam's sin, we also inherit a sinful nature because of Adam's sin." Wayne Grudem Doctinin Systematic Theology: An Introduction ((Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 496 Theology: An Introduction to L







Nature and the Two Natures of Christ

While it is true that, since the fall, mankind has inherited a sin nature with which we are born, we must be clear that sin is not part of the nature (in the philosophical sense) or essence of human ...

































Nature and Morality										
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Clarence Thomas and 'Natural Law' By LAURENCE H. TRIBE. Published. July 15, 1991 What is really at stake in the nomination of Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court? While any candidate nominated to replace Justice Thurgood Marshall would likely accelerate the Court's rightward trend, Judge Thomas's adherence to "natural law" as a judicial philosophy could take the Court in an even more troubling direction.	E-MAIL PRINT SINGLE REPRIN C SAVE SHARE	E-PAGE								
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Nature and Morality



Edward Feser

"It is widely assumed that the analysis and justification of fundamental moral claims can be conducted without reference to at least the more contentious issues of metaphysics. Nothing could be further from the spirit of Thomas, for whom natural law ... is 'natural' precisely because it derives from human nature, conceived of in Aristotelian essentialist terms."















Nature and Morality

Natural Law Theory

A human being's end, goal, or telos can be understood in terms of different aspects of his single reality, viz., his nutritive, (i.e., physical), his sentient (i.e., consciousness), and his rational.





























The Meaning of Flesh' vs. 'Spirit'

Clarifying the Meaning of Theology

Flesh vs. Spirit / Material vs. Immaterial

Confusion comes from the ambiguity of the term 'spiritual.'

In some contexts, 'spiritual' is contrasted with 'physical.'

Eph. 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."



Flesh vs. Spirit / Material vs. Immaterial

Confusion comes from the ambiguity of the term 'spiritual.'

• In other contexts, 'spiritual' is contrasted with worldly or ungodly.

1 Corinthians 3:1 "And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ."



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Clarifying the Meaning of Theology

Flesh vs. Spirit / Material vs. Immaterial

Given this potential for confusion, what should we make of this verse?

1 Corinthians 15:44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.









Truth and the Bible



"Debates about the Bible may divert attention of Southern Baptists from winning the world and thereby become an effective tool of Satan."

Russell H. Dilday, Jr., The Doctrine of Biblical Authority (Nashville: Convention Press, 1982), 16.

Clarifying the Meaning of Theology

Truth and the Bible



"There are those who advocate a modified definition of inerrancy. If the term inerrant is to be used, it must be qualified to allow for certain problems in the Bible, such as unscientific statements about the universe, variations in the Gospel accounts, peculiarities in the genealogical lists, and the like."

Dilday, The Doctrine of Biblical Authority, 96.

Truth and the Bible



"On the other hand, other Christians feel that the weaknesses of the word inerrant limit its use. ... It implies that one admitted insignificant error in the Bible would destroy one's confidence in the whole biblical revelation."

Dilday, The Doctrine of Biblical Authority, 99.

Clarifying the Meaning of Theology

Truth and the Bible



"The authority of the Bible, however, is based not so much on the perfection and reliability of its text as it is on the truth which it declares."

Dilday, Biblical Authority, 86
Truth and the Bible



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Clarifying the Meaning of Theology

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Daniel P. Fuller

"Although the mustard seed (see Matt. 13:32) is not the smallest of all seeds, yet Jesus referred to it as such" because "to have gone contrary to their mind on what was the smallest seed would have so diverted their attention from the knowledge that would bring salvation to their souls that they might well have failed to hear these all-important revelational truths."

Daniel P. Fuller, "Benjamin B. Warfield's View of Faith and History," *Bulletin of the Evangelical Theological Society* 11 (Spring 1968): 81-82, quoted in Norman L. Geisler, "The Concept of Truth in the Inerrancy Debate," Bibliotheca Sacra (October-December 1980): 336-337.





Luke 3:23, 38

"Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, ... {38} the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God."



Romans 5:14 "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come."







Mike Licona on Biblical Contradictions and Inerrancy



But the question is not whether Christianity is still true even if some of the things in the Bible are not.

Instead the questions are:

Clarifying the Meaning of Theology

Is *inerrancy* still true even if it turns out that some of the things in the Bible are not?

The answer would have to be 'no' unless you have a qualified notion of what truth is, and, by implication, what an error is.









Mike's point from the Titanic example is well taken that even if there were contradictions in the Gospel accounts, this does not prove that Jesus did not rise from the dead.

However ...















































