

PART 1: THE 52 QUESTIONS

Question 1: What is theology, and why does it matter?

Short answer

Theology is the study of God and of what the Bible teaches about Him; it matters because it helps us know God better, believe rightly, and live wisely.

Explanation

The word "theology" means "talking about God" ("theos" God, word/study). Doing theology isn't only for pastors or professors: every time we say "God is good" or "Jesus forgives me," we are already doing theology.

The difference is this: we can have somewhat confused ideas about God (because we hear so many opinions), or we can learn what God has revealed in the Bible. Theology is meant to bring order: it helps us understand who God is, what He has done, what He promises, what He wants from us, and how to respond with faith and obedience.

Why does it matter? Because what we believe guides our choices. If I think God doesn't listen to me, I might stop praying. If I believe God is only strict, I will be afraid of Him. But if I know the true God---holy and loving---I can trust Him, ask for help, and learn to live like Jesus. Good theology doesn't make the heart cold: it makes faith stronger and more secure.

Reference verses

- 2 Timothy 3:16--17 ~--- "All Scripture is inspired by God... so that the man of God may be complete, well prepared for every good work."
- Proverbs 2:6 *-- "For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."
- Hosea 4:6 ~* "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

In simple words

Theology is learning who God really is, using the Bible as your guide. It matters because if you know God well, you make better choices: you pray with confidence, understand what is right, and you don't get confused by people who say wrong things about God.