



THEOS
BIBLE COLLEGE

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<https://DThomasPorter.com/BibleStudies/SYS501>

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BIBLIOLOGY & THEOLOGY  THEOLOGICAL & EPISTEMOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

SYS 501 – An Orientation to Systematic Understanding of Deity and the Bible

SEVEN PEDAGOGICAL & EPISTEMOLOGICAL RULES FOR SYS 501

- I. Your faith is based on beliefs that are wrong. Likewise for me, and correspondingly, I have learned the more I know, the less I know.
- II. The professor is not correct, always. Neither are you.
- III. We are here to learn more about what we do not know than what we do know. Hubris abounds when what we know begins to supplant humility in learning more about Him.
- IV. If you fail to correct me, then you are not meeting your obligations as a *graduate* student—the days of “listen, shut up, and tell him/her what she/he wants to hear” are over. This is neither the fifth grade nor catechism.
- V. If the professor fails to correct you, he/she fails. This is neither the fifth grade nor catechism; thick skin¹ was one of our first gifts from the LORD God after spiritual sentience (Genesis 3:21); and, later He noted we all need new skins.²
- VI. Perfect doctrine is not a requisite for soteriological security. Doctrine based on trust, not on our knowledge but His grace, is the doctrine that leads to soteriological sentience.
- VII. Questions are the icing of learning; declarative statements, while important, are mere flour. Question, question, question—the key to learning. Remember how the greatest teacher taught? The Christ responded to declarative statements, even those framed as “questions?”
 - 1) “But who do you say I am?”
 - 2) “What does the Scripture say?”
 - 3) “Where are you?”
 - 4) “What good is it for a man to gain the whole world but forfeit his soul?”
 - 5) “Why are you bothering this woman?” (one of my favorites)

See <https://redletterchallenge.com/the-305-questions-jesus-asked-with-one-shocking-discovery/> for more examples.

¹Moses records ...

“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” –Genesis 3:21

²Jesus the Christ said at Matthew’s dinner party:

“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, ‘The old is better.’ ” –Luke 5:37-39.