

NOV



2016

# THEOLOGY IN CULTURE

BILD TRAINING SYSTEM



BILD  
INTERNATIONAL

# FAMILY NOTES

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- Michael: he is *sick*
- Lynnay Hites, Julie Allen: notes to Michael



# WHAT IS THEOLOGY IN CULTURE?

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What is Theology in Culture?

- The task of mastering the scriptures while bringing clarity to our churches who are living/working within and seeking the welfare of our culture. Solving problems and meeting pressing needs within our generation for generations to come.



"To us **progress might seem slow**; but all true educationalists know well the **importance of slow growth** for solid progress, even in the education of the individual; and when we are dealing with the education of a community we are thinking in terms not of years but of generations, and we must learn not to despise slow growth. The one thing of importance is that there **should be some growth, some progress**, however slight it may be **in the eyes of the causal observer**."

What will have occurred that we can say to each other that we can say to each other that we have made progress? Progress that is noticeable to the casual observer? How will we measure progress?



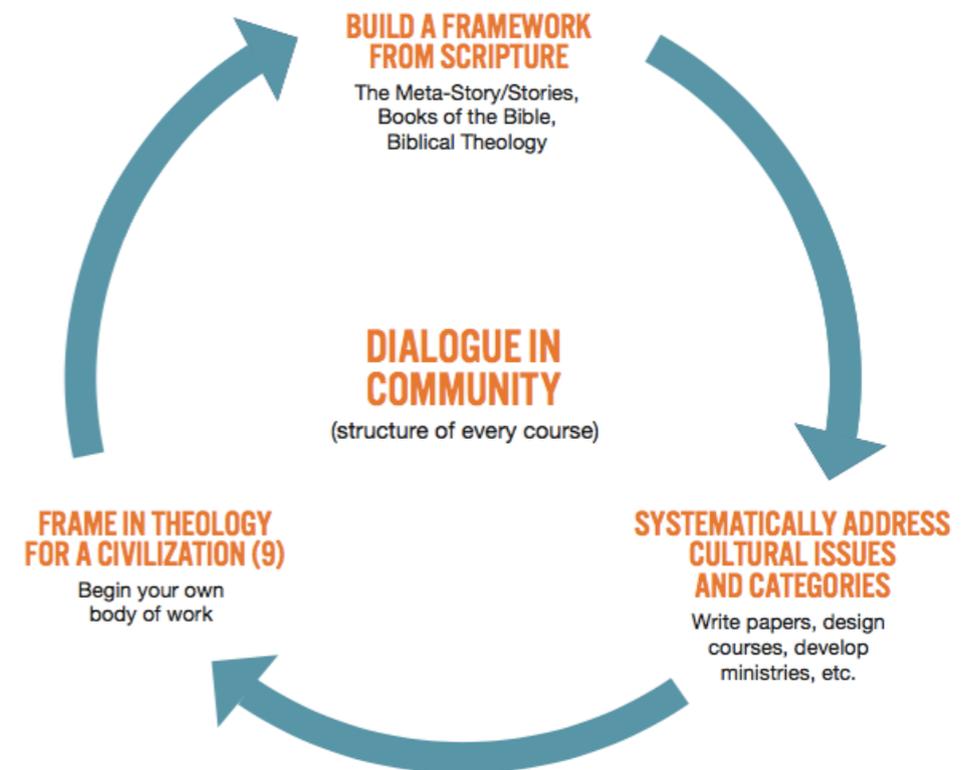
See Handout - To review our teachings from last two weeks



# HOW WE WILL BE DOING THEOLOGY IN CULTURE

1. Build a Framework from Scripture
2. Systematically address cultural issues and categories
3. Develop practical theology in our cities, creating actions plans for one mindedness and alignment

## DOING THEOLOGY IN CULTURE LEADERSHIP SERIES I & II



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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Michael's work with 1 Thessalonians: "to statements"

"So, when it got to the point that we couldn't bear it any longer... we sent Timothy...so that he could **strengthen you** and bring comfort to your faith, so **that you wouldn't be pulled off course** by these sufferings....that's why when I too couldn't bear it any longer, I sent Timothy, so that I could find out about your faithfulness, in case somehow the tempter had put you to the test and our world would be in ruins." 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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Michael's work with 1 Thessalonians: "to statements"

"And you learned how to copy us, and the Lord! When you received the word, **you had a lot to suffer**, but you also had the holy spirit's joy." 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (N.T. Wright)

"We had **already undergone awful things and been shamefully treated** in Philippi." 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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Michael's work with 1 Thessalonians: "to statements"

"...we encourage each of you and strengthened you, and made **it clear to you** that you should behave in a manner worthy of God who calls you into his Kingdom." 1 Thessalonians 2:12 (N.T. Wright)

"What remains...is for us to ask you and **indeed to urge you** in the Lord Jesus, that you should continue more and more in the manner that you received from us as appropriate" 1 Thessalonians 4:1 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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Michael's work with 1 Thessalonians: "by statements"

"You know, of course, what **instructions** we gave you through Jesus Christ...Anyone who rejects this, then, is not **rejecting a human command**, but the God who gives His holy spirit to you." 1 Thessalonians 4:2,8 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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Michael's work with 1 Thessalonians: "by statements"

"This, my dear family's the request we make of you. Take note of those who work among you and **exercise leadership over you** in the Lord, those who give you instruction. Give them the highest possible rank **of love because of their work**. Live at peace among yourselves." 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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Michael's work with 1 Thessalonians: "by statements"

Make sure **nobody pays anyone back evil for evil**. Instead, always find the way to do good to one another and to everybody...test everything, if something **is good, hold fast** to it.

1 Thessalonians 5:15, 21 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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## Michael's 1 Thessalonians Intention Statement

To strengthen and comfort them in their faith, urging them so that no one will be pulled off course by the persecutions, pleading with them to remain in the teaching, living a life worthy of God, while respecting their leaders and doing good to everyone.



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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...after all this work, I came across these two passages

"...and you learned how to copy us, and the Lord!...as a result you became a model for all the believers in both Macedonia and Achaia. For the the word of the Lord has resonated out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia; your faith has gone out to people everyone where."

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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...after all this work, I came across these two passages

"Now about charitable concern for the whole family: I don't really need to write to you, because you yourselves have been taught by God to show loving care for one another. Indeed you are doing this for all the Christian family in the whole of Macedonia. But we urge you, my dear family, to make this an even more prominent part of your lives. You should make it your ambition to live peacefully, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, just as we have commanded you, so that you may behave in a way which outsiders will respect and so that none of you will be in financial difficulties."

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 (N.T. Wright)



What if Macedonia was replaced with Des Moines?

What if Achaia was replaced with Ames?



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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"...and you learned how to copy us, and the Lord!...as a result you became a model for all the believers in both Macedonia and Achaea. For the the word of the Lord has resonated out from you, not only in **Des Moines and Ames**; your faith has gone out to people everyone where."

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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"Now about charitable concern for the whole family: I don't really need to write to you, because you yourselves have been taught by God to show loving care for one another. Indeed you are doing this for all the Christian family in the whole of **Des Moines**. But we urge you, my dear family, to make this an even more prominent part of your lives. You should make it your ambition to live peacefully, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, just as we have commanded you, so that you may behave in a way which outsiders will respect and so that none of you will be in financial difficulties."

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 (N.T. Wright)



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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*"...Now about charitable concern for the whole family: I don't really need to write to you, because you yourselves have been taught by God to show loving care for one another."*

- These are instructions for the entire family
- You already know these things, you have already been taught these things



# BUILDING FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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*..Indeed you are doing this for all the Christian family in the **whole of Des Moines**. But we urge you, my dear family, to make this an even more prominent part of your lives.*

- “This” is referring to charitable concern, most versions use love
  - What *is* that?
- You have done throughout the world, make it even more part of your lives in Ames, Des Moines
  - What did we *do*? What things were visible?
- The way you will love them is to bring TWCA principles to bear in their lives



# BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FROM SCRIPTURE

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*"... You should make it your ambition to live peacefully, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, just as we have commanded you, so that you may behave in a way which outsiders will respect..."*

## ***What is love (charitable concern)?***

1. Live peacefully
2. Mind your own business
3. Work with your own hands - work

So that others our work may be respected by outsiders...



"To us **progress might seem slow**; but all true educationalists know well the **importance of slow growth** for solid progress, even in the education of the individual; and when we are dealing with the education of a community we are thinking in terms not of years but of generations, and we must learn not to despise slow growth. The one thing of importance is that there **should be some growth, some progress**, however slight it may be **in the eyes of the causal observer**."

What will have occurred that that we can say to each other that we have made progress? Progress that is noticeable to the casual observer? How will we measure progress?



# THEOLOGY IN CULTURE

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- **Theology in Culture:** the task of mastering the scriptures while bringing clarity to our churches who are living/working within and seeking the welfare of our culture. Solving problems and meeting pressing needs within our generation for generations to come.
- **Building a Scriptural Framework Example:** what charitable concern/love looks like: our love goes out in Ames and Des Moines
  - Living peacefully, minding our own business, working diligently, winning respect
- What will have occurred that that we can say to each other that we have made progress? Progress that is noticeable to the casual observer? How will we measure progress?

