

A dogma is a doctrine derived from Scripture, defined by the church, and declared to rest upon Divine Authority. (For amplification: Berkhof: History of Christian Doctrines, p. 21) In all its parts it is essentially Biblical. The subject matter is derived directly from the Word, the definition has been structured to agree with overall Biblical principles, the definition agrees with the Christian community and exhibits permanent value.

5. Creedal definitions

Creeds, otherwise known as symbols are partial or complete compilations of dogma. The study of creeds is called "symbolics". The issuing body of a creed will tend to show a picture of the community it represents.

6. Polemics...the science of dealing with theological, doctrinal controversy within the church...and while it may be directed at heresy it is often directed at contrary opinion.

7. Apologetics is the science that deals with defense of the faith from non-Christian sources

8. And, finally, Historical Theology is that discipline that seeks to trace the progressive development of the human understanding of the Biblical doctrines.

...and that will be all the defining needed for now....

C. Bibliographic Notes (oral)