

GROWING TO KNOW AND LOVE GOD BY KNOWING AND LOVING THEOLOGY

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- I. Introduction – Teaching theology for so many years has given me much opportunity to consider just how truth about God impacts our love for and devotion to God.
- II. The Progression of Truth, i.e., How God Intends His Truth to “Travel” – Head, Heart, Hands, Habitat

- A. Head—The mind’s understanding (knowing the truth) is necessary for the heart’s engagement with that truth (loving the truth). Knowing the truth provides the possibility and basis for loving the truth. Jeremiah 9:23-24.

E.g., Edwards’s illustration of fire

- B. Heart—The heart’s engagement with truth (loving the truth) is necessary for the hand’s activity in applying that truth (living the truth). Loving the truth provides the possibility and basis for living the truth.

E.g., Thomas Chalmers’s principle of the “Expulsive Power of a New Affection”

- C. Hands—The hand’s applying the truth (living the truth) is what makes possible the transformation of others and our cultural environment (transformed by the truth)

E.g., My dad’s love for the elderly

- D. Habitat—The spheres of influence God grants to each of us is where we long to see our lives making an impact. Family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, small group, church family, etc – how can we manifest our love for God in a way that puts on display the greatness and glory that belongs to God alone?

III. Conclusion

The order is crucial: Head → Heart → Hands → Habitat
 Knowing → Loving → Living → Transforming

Consider each aspect – head, heart, and hands – and ask how you are doing in each area.