

Systematic Theology
#1—Introduction
Exercise in Theological Statements¹

Classify each of the following 1) as to whether or not it is a theological statement. If it is, decide 2) if it is probably drawn from the Bible and, if so, decide 3) if it is true to the Bible. Circle the 'yes' or the 'no.'

Example:

God wants children to obey their parents.
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

1. Joseph Smith was a Mormon prophet.
Theological statement? Yes No
From the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

2. Great is thy faithfulness!
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

3. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

4. The Holy Spirit supports the work of the Son.
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

5. Martin Luther preached about the Roman Catholic Church.
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

6. Be thou my vision, O lord of my heart.
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

7. Buddha helps people become gods.
Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No

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True to the Bible? Yes No

8. Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

9. Jesus will return bodily to the earth.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

10. The resurrection occurred before the ascension.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

11. The Body of Christ (the Church) existed before Pentecost.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

12. The Body of Christ began at Pentecost.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

13. Husbands, love your wives.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

14. The Bible says that husbands should love their wives.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

15. God is a Trinitarian being.

Theological statement? Yes No
Connected with the Bible? Yes No
True to the Bible? Yes No

Answers:

1. This is a Mormon theological statement, but it is not from the Bible.
2. This is from a hymn and is simply a statement of the writer's faith. It is not theological in the sense of being a summarizing statement.
3. This is a biblical quotation and so it is not a summarizing statement.
4. This is a theological statement drawn from the Bible and is true.
5. This is a church history statement, but not theological.
6. As with #2, this is a hymn writer's desire and not a theological statement. If we said, "Jesus should be our vision," then this would be a true, biblical, theological statement.
7. This is a Buddhist theological statement. It is not from the Bible, of course.
8. As with #3, this is simply a biblical quotation.
9. Theological, biblical and true.
10. Theological, biblical and true.
11. Theological, biblical but false.
12. Theological, biblical and true.
13. A biblical quotation and command but not a theological statement.
14. Based on #13, this is theological, biblical and true.
15. Theological, biblical and true.