

Some Modes of Theology

Contemplative

Seeks union with God. Theology is a bridge to mystical encounter, but glimpses of the Absolute relativize linguistic formulas.

Re-Constructive

Seeks to systematically integrate valid insights of critical theologies into a higher synthesis. Successful re-constructive theologies may become new conventional theologies.

Critical

Seeks to oppose and deconstruct aspects of conventional theologies which experience has revealed to be betrayals of the original constructive vision, to be obsolete in view of changed circumstances, or both.

Conventional

Seeks to canonize, systematize, preserve, and defend constructive theologies which have received group sanction. In addition to doctrines, conventional theologies may include social conventions which have come to be treated as sacred.

Constructive

Seeks to communicate experiences of God using language (*theos* = God; *logos* = word). Constructive theologies may or may not be especially systematized.

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