

Assignment for God Thoughts, Year Four, Thinking Theologically

Books: *Simply Christian*, N T Wright (2010, HarperOne); *A Generous Orthodoxy*, Brian McLaren (2004, Zondervan); and *How (Not) to Speak of God*, Peter Rollins (2006, Paraclete Press).

These three texts represent a variety of contemporary theologies. Each of them represents the kind of theological thinking that is influencing people in our churches today. Whenever a person does theology they are drawing from a number of resources (books, traditions, people, etc.) in order to answer a very particular problem that they have. Each of these authors demonstrates this process through the pages of these books. When you are reading these books pay attention to what question or cluster of questions the author is trying to answer. Note what resources they draw on to try to answer their particular questions. Learning to reflect on how we think theologically enables us to see the strengths and weaknesses of the resources we choose to draw from. We all do theology whenever we talk about God. The goal of this course is to become aware of how we might do theology better.

Write a 2-3 page paper reflecting on one main question from each of these authors. Describe the resources they use to try and answer their question. Why is each resource of particular importance to that author? On an additional page, describe the resources you draw on in answering your own theological questions. What are the benefits and potential problems for each of the resources that you can identify?

Share this paper with your ThoughtWorks study group or mentor when you have completed it. Together, discuss how each of you seeks to answer the questions that arise as you live out your faith in Jesus Christ.

Upon completion of this assignment, give a copy of your work to the Thoughtworks coordinator in your region to receive a certificate of completion for this course.