

The synthetic method gives the best over-all balance to the entire structure of systematic theology. For this reason, we shall follow this method of distributing the materials.

In addition to these seven *loci*, which constitute the basic structure of the system of theology, there are also other areas generally covered under the department of systematic theology. They are: the history of doctrine, the study of the development of the creeds, apologetics and ethics.

Though it is true that these various fields of study may properly belong with systematic theology, we shall limit our consideration to the seven *loci* that specifically constitute the system.

#### 4. Practical Theology

Practical theology has been defined as "the science and art of the various functions of the Christian ministry for the preservation and propagation of the Christian religion at home and abroad."<sup>13</sup> Schaff goes on to say "it is the crowning consummation of sacred learning to which all other departments look and by which they become useful for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God in the world."<sup>14</sup> He goes on to divide the various branches of practical theology as follows:

- I. Theory of the Christian Ministry
- II. Ecclesiology - Church Polity
- III. Liturgics - Worship
- IV. Homiletics - Preaching
- V. Catechetics - Teaching
- VI. Poimenics - Pastoral Work
- VII. Evangelistic - Evangelism and Missions

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13. Philip S. Schaff, *Theological Propaedeutic* (New York: Charles Scribners Sons, 1909), p. 448.

14. *Ibid.*

Smith, Morton H. *Systematic Theology*. Vol. 1. Greenville, SC: Greenville Seminary Press, 1994.