

Discipleship Class

Trust → Listen → Obey → Believe

Epistemology → Trust

Christian authority, in order from highest to lowest:

1. Scripture
2. Tradition
3. Reason
4. Experience

Exercise:

1. Pick a topic
2. What do I believe about this topic?
3. Why do I believe this? (not asking, “why is this true?”)
 - a. Determine which rung you are drawing your conviction from
4. Is there anything at or above that rung that either affirms or conflicts with the belief?

With someone else, in the form of questions.

1. Tell me what you think about this? What do you believe?
2. How did you get there?
3. What does God’s word say about that?
4. Do you think you are right?

Hermeneutics → Listen

Be humble, not intimidated, & expectant

- Humble: This is God’s word. Not man’s alone.
 - We read as disciples, not teachers or masters
 - Contradiction? Presume error in interpretation, not error in communication
 - Not good? Presume there is more thinking to do, not that God’s design is bad
- Not intimidated: God wants you to know Him in His word
 - Typical sophistication – genre
 - Read the whole book – get to know the story
 - You are not alone – The Holy Spirit & the Church – Pioneering is dangerous anyway
- Expectant: God is revealing Himself – The invisible God, clothed in the Word (Luther)
 - Not simply intellectual work (worldview building), but relational (encountering God)
 - Prayer and reading – speaking and listening