

Questions for Reading
What Is Systematic Theology? 1-4

- ✓ 1. What is the principal question or problem with which Doran is concerned?
- ✓ 2. What is the first of Lonergan's four emphases? In that context, what is the difference between the functional specialties of systematics and doctrines and why is that distinction so vital?
- ✓ 3. What is the second of Lonergan's four emphases? What questions, if any, does this short section prompt for you?
- ✓ 4. What is the third of Lonergan's four emphases? What is the difference between the *ordo doctrinae* and the *ordo inventionis* (or *via inventionis*)? Why is systematics only rarely a systematics *in facto esse*, and why is any achievement of systematics *in facto esse* only temporary?
- ✓ 5. What is the only arbiter of permanent achievements in systematics? And why?
- ✓ 6. What is the fourth of Lonergan's four emphases?
- ✓ 7. What is the difference between description and explanation? What is the difference between special and general categories?
- ✓ 8. As a preview for things that will come up later in this book in more detail:
- ✓ Do you agree that “there are also aspects of revealed mystery that...cannot receive dogmatic status in the church”? Why or why not?
- ✓ Do you agree that “in many instances the meaning of some of the mysteries of faith is perhaps permanently best expressed in categories that are symbolic, aesthetic, dramatic, narrative”? Why or why not?
9. What is meant by asking “What grounds the synthetic inclusion in systematic theology of elements of the Christian mystery that have not been and perhaps never will be formulated in dogmatic pronouncements?” What is Doran's answer to this question?
10. What is meant by the term 'theological doctrines'? What is the difference between 'theological doctrines' and 'church doctrines'?
11. For a given theologian, what, generally speaking, are the two elements in determining the tradition in which that theologian will work?
12. What three ways does Doran suggest for theological doctrines to achieve doctrinal status?

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