

# How to Research Historical Theology

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## 1. Start with what you already know.

Why did you ask this question?

What answers do you know about?

Who has given these answers?

## 2. Follow the trail from there

Pay attention to who each side quotes and argues against

Listen to all sides

## 3. Be focused

Stay on the question

Dig thoroughly, but efficiently

## 4. Do not end with what you already know

Get a thorough understanding of each viewpoint

Understand the reasons for each viewpoint

## 5. Basic reference-

Begin with the standard reference tools located in the reference section of the library

Systematic Theologies, Theological Dictionaries, History books

## 6. Use their Bibliographies to go further

Make note of any references to other authors or works

Find and use those resources

## 7. Use indexes and Scripture references

When using resources, start with table of contents, topic, and Scripture indexes

Use these resources to make your research more efficient

## 8. Search Library databases and periodical indexes

Use only those references that are the most helpful to your topic

## 9. Search Web and computer resources

Use only those references that are the most helpful to your topic

## 10. Ask knowledgeable friends, peers, librarians, and teachers

Don't be afraid to use the experience and wisdom of others