

Theological Model Between Personal Theology and Practice
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Marcus Moreira

Five building Blocks

- Concept of Model;
- A little of Set Theory;
- The Theory of Foster and Teel (some roots in Philosophy);
- My definition of *Perception* and *Praxis*;
- The concept of “Theology”.

What is a Model?

A Model is a systematic description of a reality or phenomena, using a limited amount of variables or parameters (i.e. Atomic Models, Economic Trinity, Psychoanalysis, Digestive Trait).

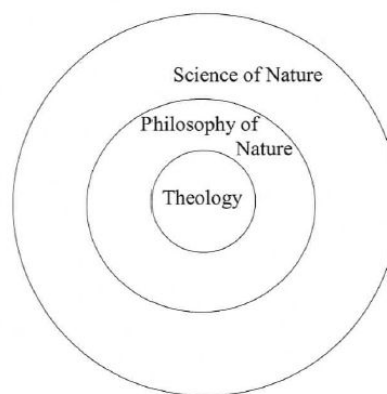
A good Model is measured by: **Simplicity, Predictive Power, Accuracy.**

Warning: there's a danger in dealing with model. We must not take a model as the reality, neither as the ideal.

A Little of Set Theory (the naive approach)

Set theory is the branch of mathematics that studies sets. A set is a collection of distinct objects considered as a whole.

What about Foster and Teel?



*Figure 1- B: Foster's Model*¹

¹ Paul David Wilkinson Teel, “Christian Theology and Modern Science of Nature: A Critical Analysis of Michael Baresford Fosters’s” (Ph.D diss., Wheaton College 1989), 3.

Understanding the concept of *Perception*

Knowledge = Information + *Perception* + ...

Perception is the (synthesis of) information we assume as right (corresponding to the reality).

Praxis is the regular practice we assume as right.

Theology as a *field* of knowledge

Not just a field of **research**. It is a field of **knowledge**. It is all the potential knowledge referenced to a deity or divinity directly or indirectly.

Putting the pieces together

- Sets of Knowledge and Sets of Perception;
- The interaction between sets (Following Teel and Foster);
- Understanding how *Praxis* and *Theology* interact. Our perception of god ultimately decides the way we live. Our theology influences our praxis in the world and vice versa.

Potential of the Model

- Conversion;
- Discipleship;
- Practical Atheism;
- Racism;
- Slavery;

A Theological Model (1 Peter and Exodus)