

## LEVELS OF THEOLOGICAL INTEGRATION

J. P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*,  
(Colorado Springs, Colorado: NavPress, 1997), pp. 177-181

### 1. INDEPENDENT

Areas involve two distinct, non-overlapping areas of investigation. Example: The extent of Christ's atonement and the molecular structure of methane.

### 2. COMPLEMENTARY

Issues involve two different, complementary, non-interacting perspectives about the same reality. Example: Theologians describe church growth in terms of divine providence while sociologists describe it in terms of group homogeneity, available parking, and geographical location.

### 3. INTERACTIVE

Areas directly interact so that one offers rational support or raises rational difficulties with the other. Examples: Economists say that the moral virtue of citizens may help a society remain economically healthy. Neurologists say homosexuality is entirely a function of genetics.

### 4. SUPPORTIVE

One discipline supports the presuppositions of another. Example: Many of the presuppositions of science (the existence of truth; the rational, orderly nature of reality; the adequacy of sensory and cognitive faculties as tools suited for knowing the external world) make sense and are easy to justify given Christian theism, but are at odds with and without ultimate justification in a naturalistic world.

### 5. EXPANDING

One discipline fills out and adds detail to the general principles of the other. Example: Theology teaches that fathers should not provoke children to anger while psychology adds important details about what this means with information on family systems, the causes of anger, etc.

"The more a field is composed of ideas about the ultimate nature of reality, what we know about the nature of ultimate reality; what and how we know things, moral values and virtues, the nature and origin of human beings, and other issues central to mere Christianity, the more critical it will be to think carefully about how a Christian should integrate his discipleship unto Jesus with the ideas and practices in that field (p. 181)."

## FIVE AREAS OF INTEREST

1. Ethical issues.
2. What is real and not real, true and false.
3. The nature and limits of knowledge.
4. The methods and reasoning needed to assert the validity of something.
5. Relevant virtues.