## The Theologian's Role as Shepherd of the Flock

Theologians occupy a unique place within the body of the church because of their subject of study and teaching role within the church. But who is teaching the teachers? In this session we will check where we are in our own individual situations, help one another to think things through, and remind ourselves of the blessings and responsibilities that come with our role.

Dirk Jongkind, co leader of the Theologians Network, is a Dutch biblical scholar who finished his PhD at Cambridge University. His main scholarly interest is in the Greek text of the Bible and the Graeco-Roman backdrop of lale Но sity. He

Acts and the letters. Currently, he is the Research Fellow in New Testament Text and Language at Tyrouse, Deputy Senior Tutor at St Edmund's College, Cambridge, and affiliated lecturer at Cambridge University has done much work on Greek manuscripts and other remains from the ancient world.
1. Our subject: The study of God's Revelation
a. in Biblical Studies
b. in systematizing our knowledge of God
c. in studying the understanding of God in the past
d. in applying this in response to new questions raised by a changing culture

	e.	covering everything from a study of Hebrew conjunctions in Obadiah to giving reasons for one's belief in God
2.	We wo	Our own curiosity - Serving others
	b.	Preserving the past - Recovering new ground
	c.	Revelation that is out there independent of us - Our limited knowledge of and access to that revelation
	d.	Desire to follow our research plans and questions independently - Receiving a salary through the giving of individual Christians, churches, schools, missions, etc.

3.	The Theologian's Role within the Body as a Theologian		
	a.	Privileged position: We are 'set apart' to spend more time than others on studying God's revelation	
		God's revelation	
	b.	Intellectual: We didn't become theologians because we were given a talent in painting (Timothy)	
	c.	Clarifying: Destroying arguments (2 Cor 10:4; Mat 23:34 - scribes). Heresy	
	d.	Clarifying: Instruction. We have a task to help others understand, not just to understand ourselves (cf. speaking in languages, 1 Cor 14)	
	e.	Affirming the truth, inspiring confidence in God	
	f.	Discovering (Mat 13:52 - scribes again!)	

	g. <b>Discuss:</b> What are the dangers of points a f.?
4.	The Theologian's Role as a Mentor and Example
	a. Discuss: In what circumstances can we expect higher standards from certain
	individuals, and what are the reasons to expect high standards from theologians?
	b. Discipling individuals and the curse of aiming for quantity
	i. <b>Discuss:</b> How to disciple the next generation of theologians?
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5.	<b>Discuss:</b> How do we leave a legacy?