

Let's do Theology!



We enable students to carry out context-related, biblically and theologically reflected and action-orientated research.

In the midst of the paradigmatic changes that we are experiencing in our Western culture at the beginning of the 21st century, careful and innovative theological work is required in order to find viable answers to the questions of our time.

Thesis 1

"Let's do theology" is an invitation to conduct theologically reflected, relevant and action-orientated research in times of paradigmatic changes in society and the church. The task is to develop relevant theological paradigms in the face of new situations, contexts and realities for the interpretation of which traditional theological paradigms have lost their plausibility.

Thesis 2

"Let's do theology" is therefore also a call to understand theological work as active action in the sense of "practising theology". Such research practice goes beyond the "reproduction" and application of existing content by "productively" generating theology or theology-related theories that are relevant for interpretation and action in changed situations and new contexts.

Thesis 3

The call to practise theology in this sense ties in with the phrase "mission is the mother of theology" and sees the task of theological work as taking seriously the "agenda of the world" with which the church is confronted in its mission and providing answers in word and deed.

Thesis 4

Doing theology is orientated towards the theological work that we can already observe in the Bible, because already in the development of theology within the biblical canon we observe a continuous fresh creation of theology by the biblical authors in God-led interaction between normative revelation and new contexts, situations and challenges.

Thesis 5

When we practise theology in the sense described here, we orientate ourselves epistemologically and methodologically on the approach of the so-called theory-practice cycle. This is guided by the conviction that insights cannot be found in isolation from concrete historical situations, but rather explicitly in reflected interaction with culture and context.

Thesis 6

Practising theology in the sense of "Let's do theology" requires an appropriate degree of proximity and distance to the context. Experiences in real life are just as constitutive for the cognitive process as their distanced reflection in the light of the Bible and the Christian tradition.

Thesis 7

"Doing theology" in the sense of world- and life-related theological work thinks beyond the horizon of church and mission and their traditional ministries. Theological work must address theological issues in all areas of life, the professional world, science and society.

Thesis 8

"Let's do Theology" is a community project. It is in the nature of a biblical understanding of finding the truth that responsible theological work must be done in dialogue (hermeneutics of community).

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The leitmotif "Let's do theology" is an appeal for theological education to teach theological content, realizing that this is important but not sufficient. Graduates are only 'fit for purpose' if they have been enabled in the sense described here to practise theology in ever new contexts and situations.