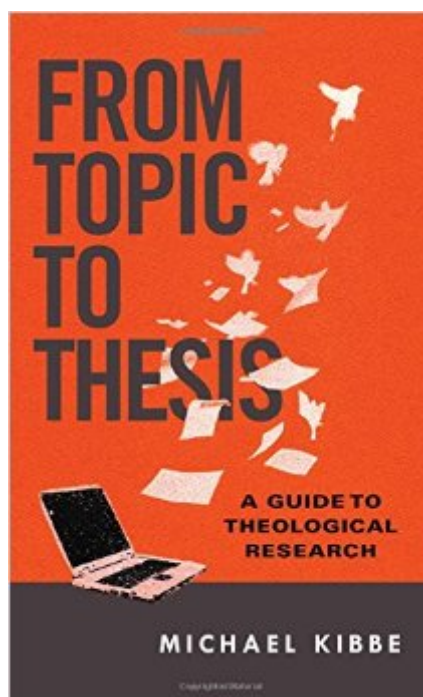# From Topic To Thesis: A Guide To Theological Research

Synopsis

While courses in Bible and theology typically require research papers, particularly at the graduate level, very few include training in research. Professors have two options: use valuable class time to teach students as much as they can, or lower their standards with the understanding that students cannot be expected to complete tasks for which they have never been prepared. From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research offers a third option. This affordable and accessible tool walks students through the process, focusing on five steps: finding direction, gathering sources, understanding issues, entering discussion and establishing a position. Its goal is to take students directly from a research assignment to a research argumentâ •in other words, from topic to thesis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From Topic to Thesis is about how to write a research paper about theology or biblical studies. What Michael Kibbe says could apply to undergraduates or graduate students. It could also apply to scholars who want to do research so that they can get published. Kibbe differentiates between the types of research papers that he is discussing and dissertations. The latter have to be original, interact with secondary sources in foreign languages (depending on oneâ ™s discipline), and keep up with the very cutting-edge of the scholarly discussions; the former, not so much. Still, Kibbeâ ™s discussion of research and trying to find a topic can apply to people doing dissertation work or writing scholarly papers.On some level, I have done some of the things that Kibbe suggests, without realizing it. It is still good for Kibbeâ ™s principle to be in my mind, though, so that I can consciously identify productive ways to do research. Kibbe talks about starting with tertiary sources, which

include theological dictionaries and encyclopedias. They usually give people a survey of scholarly discussions. When one continues to read and starts to see the same sources cited over and over again, that could be a sign that one has consulted enough secondary sources.Kibbe does not necessarily hold studentsâ ™ hand. Students who read this book may still feel that they need more guidance. For example, Kibbe on page 63 talks about the importance of integrating different relevant sub-disciplines (i.e., literary, geographical, theological) rather than just focusing on one. A student may need more help in going about this.

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