

# Crash Course on Theology

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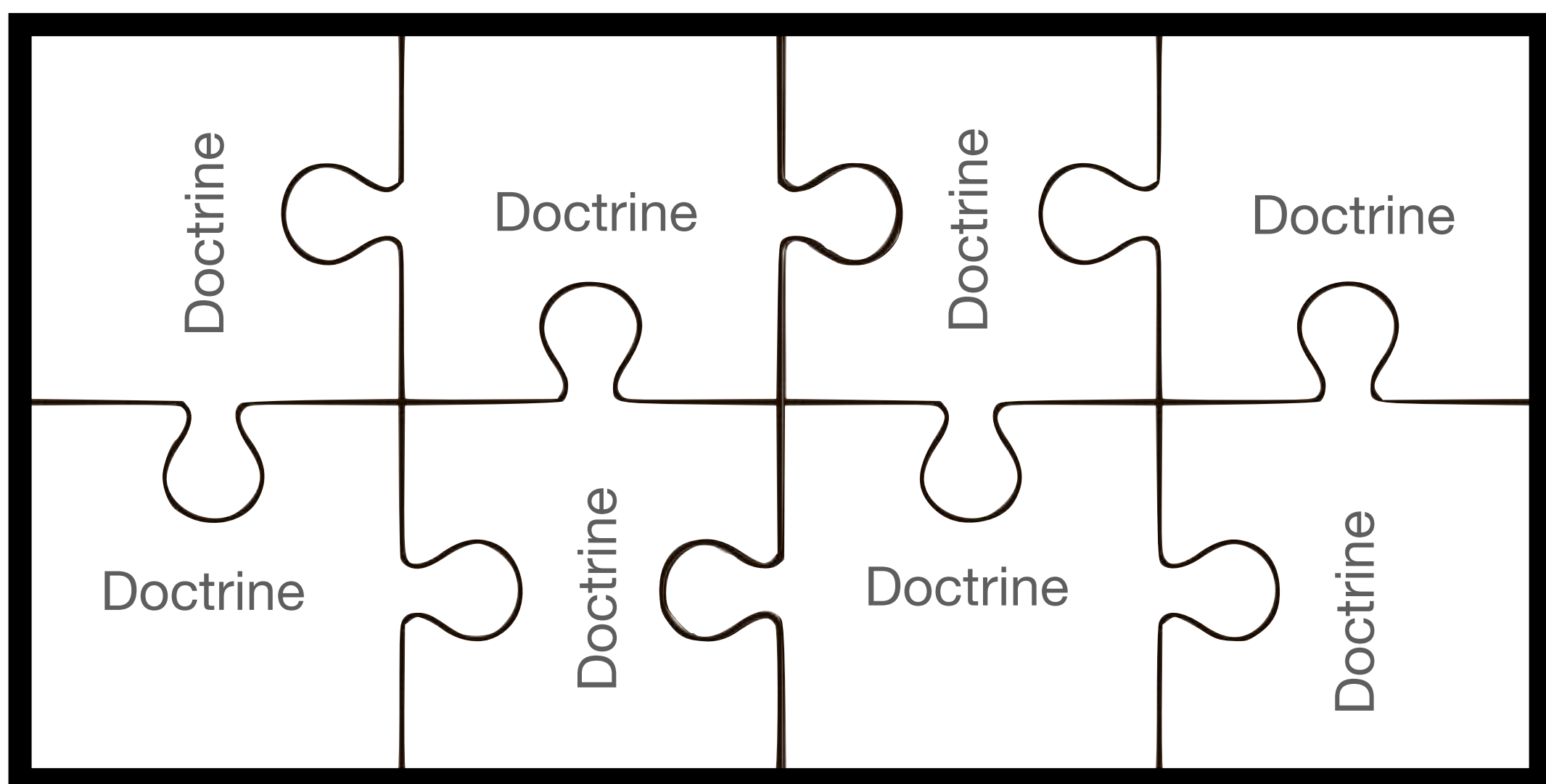


## Simplified Gloss:

**Theology:** The Study of God, and thus Doctrine. Theology is made up of doctrines. Every Christian has ideas about God, and therefore every Christian is a theologian in some sense or another.

**Doctrine:** Statements that speak about the nature of God, man, and God's actions in history (or statements of beliefs).

## THEOLOGY

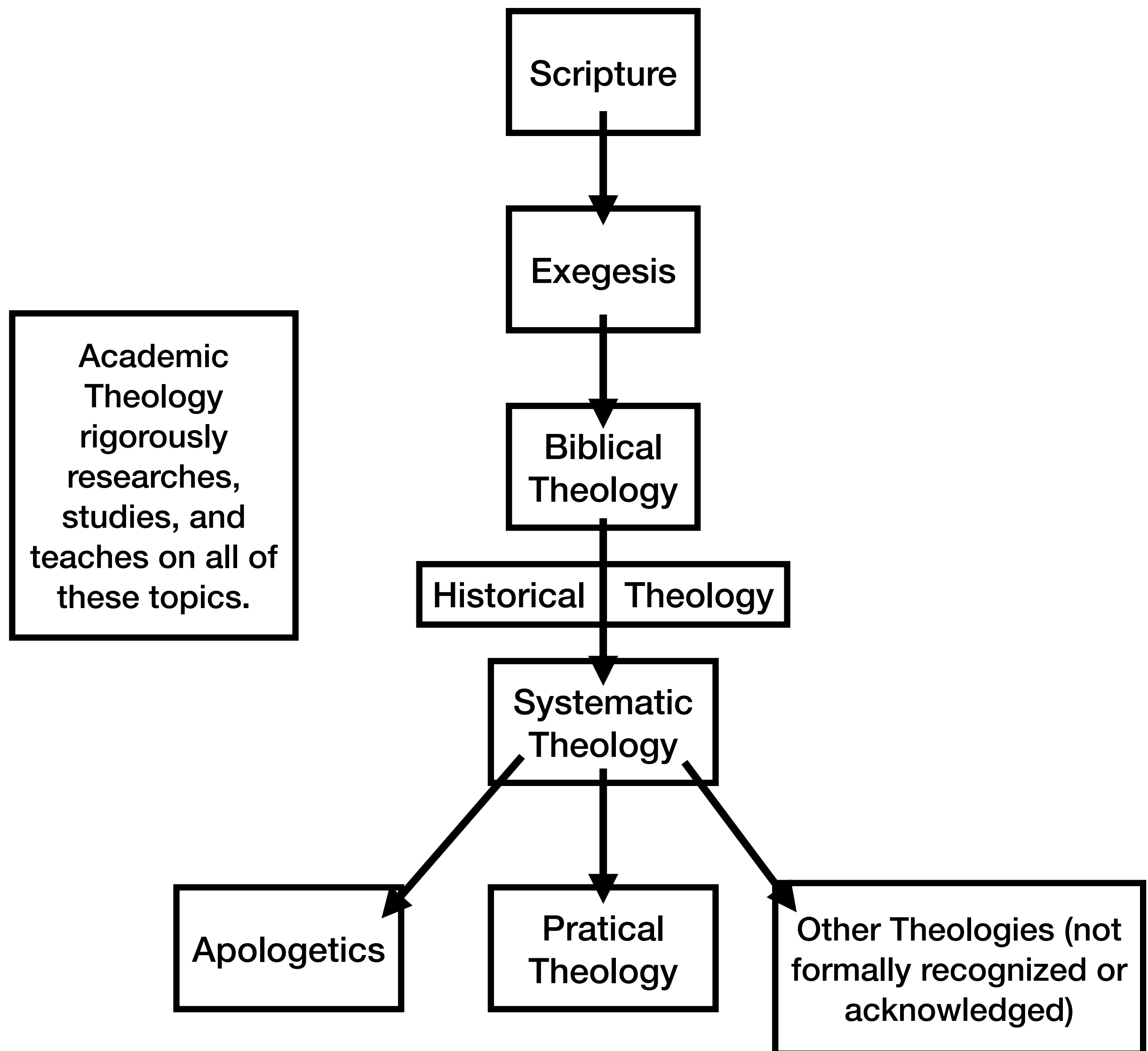


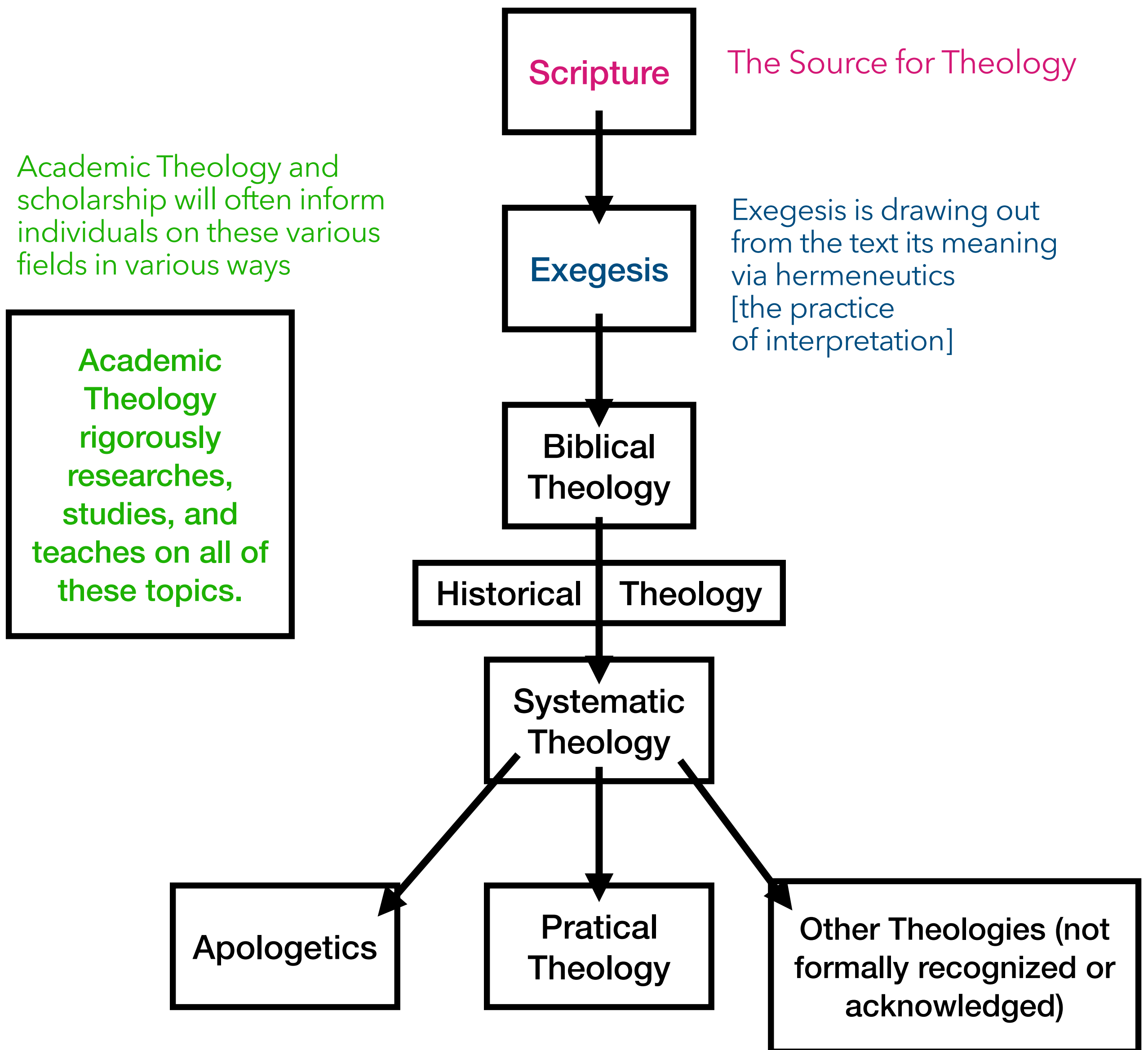
Beyond the basic glosses, Christians have broken theology into categories over time, each with a particular focus. The chart below reflects the typically accepted branches of theology but is not exhaustive regarding other potential types.

Major Branches of Theology

Biblical Theology	Focuses upon individual books and/or authors of the Bible within their context and in relation to the development of progressive revelation.
Systematic Theology	Considers theology in categories: summarized doctrines in a comprehensive, ordered, and reasonable manner.
Historical Theology	Considers how the church viewed doctrines and theology at various points in church history.
Practical Theology	Considers the practical results and applications of theological realities.

There is a logical relationship between the various branches or categories. When Christians speak about Theology, most Christians speak of Systematic Theology, which is where most Christian reading rests. Still, there will always be overlap to one degree or another, not the exclusion of other categories.





As mentioned previously, usually, when Christians talk about theology, they are thinking of Systematic Theology. Further, often it is difficult to keep categories isolated in discussions as they will inform one another. Their categorization is helpful, however, for ease of study.

Categories of Systematic Theology

Theology Proper	Focused upon God in his entirety and sometimes focuses on the Father.
Christology	Focuses on the person and work of Jesus Christ.
Pneumatology	Focuses upon the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
Anthropology	Focuses upon the doctrine of humanity.
Hamartiology	Focuses on the doctrine of sin and its effects.
Soteriology	Focuses upon the doctrine of salvation, the means and end thereof.
Angelology	Focuses upon created divine beings [angels] and usually includes demons though some break the topic into angelology and demonology.
Ecclesiology	Focuses on the doctrine of the church, its structure, function, order, etc.
Eschatology	Focuses on all things pertaining to “last things,” such as the end times, heaven, hell, etc.



# A Generic Division of Historical Theology

<b>Patristic Theology</b>	First century through AD 590
<b>Medieval Theology</b>	AD 590 through 1500
<b>Reformation Theology</b>	AD 1500 through 1600
<b>Post Reformation Theology</b>	AD 1600 through 1700 [some include this category within Reformation theology]
<b>Modern Theology</b>	AD 1700 through the Present

Interested in learning more about the Bible and theology?

Check out the resources at [christisthecure.org/pdfs](http://christisthecure.org/pdfs) and [christisthecure.org/resources](http://christisthecure.org/resources)

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