

The Attackers: Vocabulary Storage: Continuing Education: Illustration for Importance of Continuous Bible Study; Herbert Kohl on Vocabulary and the Language of Ideas; Why Bible Class Is Boring for the Disinterested: “It’s too Academic, Esoteric, & Abstruse”; Categorical Storage: Chafer’s 10 Categories of Systematic Theology; The Lord Daily Inventories Believers’ *Kardia*, Rev 2:23

- (33) To illustrate we consult the official Web site of the International Association for Continuing Education and Training for a summary of the program:

About IACET. The International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) is a non-profit association dedicated to quality continuing education and training programs. IACET accredits education providers that meet strict continuing education guidelines.

One Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is defined as ten contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education experience [Bible class] under responsible sponsorship [God], capable direction [the Holy Spirit], and qualified instruction [pastor-teacher]. The primary purpose of the CEU is to provide a permanent record [*kardia*’s stream of consciousness] of the educational accomplishments [spiritual growth] of an individual who has completed one or more significant non-credit educational experiences.

Awarding CEUs. IACET CEUs may be awarded by a college, association, company or any other organization [e.g., Grace Doctrine Church]. Note that awarding IACET CEUs requires that a permanent record [Memory Center] be established for each individual to whom IACET CEUs are awarded, and a transcript [memory traces, associations, & constellations] of that record must be made available upon request [the Lord’s daily inventory].

Only those programs that are rigorous and long enough to be of significant educational experience and for which a permanent record will be meaningful should be included in your IACET CEU program.

Calculation of CEUs. One IACET CEU is awarded for each ten clock hours (sixty-minutes=one clock hour) of instruction hours involved in the program. Instructional hours do not include time involved in coffee breaks, meals, social activities or business and committee meetings.¹

- (34) For the believer who is interested in Bible doctrine, there are no graduates, there are no degrees, there are no honorifics because the learning never stops.

¹ International Association for Continuing Education and Training, “About IACET,” <http://www.iacet.org/content/about-iacet.html> (accessed June 3, 2011).

- (35) And as is the case with every discipline, the study of theology also requires the acquisition of an esoteric, technical vocabulary that serves as a set of mnemonic devices for instant recall of the various doctrines of the Word of God.
- (36) The place where this terminology is retained in the *kardia's* third compartment of the stream of consciousness: vocabulary storage.
- (37) Vocabulary is the *sine qua non* of intelligent thought, a principle elaborated upon by Herbert Kohl in the introduction to his book, *From Archetype to Zeitgeist*:

Language consists of core concepts that are used in analyzing, writing, and talking about ideas. Each academic area of study has its own key words and special vocabulary, which often have meanings that either differ from the ones they have in conversational usage or are not part of ordinary language. For example, in philosophy words and phrases such as *epistemological*, *falsification*, *ontological*, and *logical truth* are particular to the field and it's assumed that everyone who speaks within that field understands their meanings. The same holds true in literary criticism (e.g., *genre*, *deconstruction*, and *canon*), sociology (e.g., *anomie*, *hegemony*, and *stratification*), anthropology (e.g., *acculturation*, *assimilation*, and *diffusion*), and all other subject areas that have been separated out as independent areas of study in Western European and U.S. universities.

The language of ideas is not learned informally through casual conversation. Nor is it learned from listening to the media. Somehow it is expected that the complex and sophisticated language of ideas will be absorbed through reading, listening, and perhaps some mystical forms of osmosis. As soon as one gets to college, however, knowledge of the language of ideas is assumed. Few professors spell out the key concepts and ideas that are presupposed for understanding their fields, and many freshmen get lost in a sea of strange words during their first few months of college. Some never get their linguistic and conceptual bearings and fake it throughout their college careers and beyond. They use words they hear their professors using, but without a clear sense of the nuances of meaning and the correctness of usage that are needed to speak and write well. In effect, students imitate the language of ideas as best they can to pass tests without ever developing the fluent use of complex ideas and concepts that can lead to clear and sensitive thinking. (pp. xii–xiii)

Having words to express what one feels and thinks is a way of stepping outside of one's experience and reflecting on it in order to manage it sensibly. Learning a word for a new idea is not just a matter of being able to answer a vocabulary test or sound intelligent on a term paper. It is a way of expanding one's ways of thinking and becoming liberated from other people's ideas and other people's judgments and, most crucially, other's people's language.² (p. xvii)

- (38) Just as aspirants in any discipline must acquire a vocabulary in order to develop thought, so those who are born again into the royal family must develop a theological vocabulary in order to understand the thinking of God.
- (39) Therefore, in response to criticism that asserts my use of technical terms in our Bible classes is too **academic, esoteric, and abstruse**, I say, "Precisely!"
- (40) Theology is a subject that plumbs the depths of divine wisdom and knowledge and requires an **academic** approach for serious students of the Word of God.
- (41) Its doctrines by definition are **esoteric** in that they cannot be understood by anyone who is not a believer filled with the Holy Spirit.
- (42) All mnemonic devices are **abstruse** if you haven't studied and retained the doctrines they are designed to recall.
- (43) Paul makes reference to the absolute necessity for believers to daily grow in grace by learning principles, doctrines, and applications from Bible study:

Colossians 1:9 - Because of this we also, from the day we heard, do not cease to pray on behalf of you, constantly asking that you might be filled with the ἐπίγνωσις knowledge of His sovereign purpose and design by means of all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

² Herbert Kohl, "Introduction," in *From Archetype to Zeitgeist: Powerful Ideas for Powerful Thinking* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1992), xii–xiii, xvii.

Colossians 1:10 - That you might walk worthy of the Lord pleasing God in all things, constantly producing in the sphere of every good work, constantly receiving growth by means of ἐπίγνωσις from the ultimate source of God.

4. Categorical Storage:

1. The Frame of Reference takes ἐπίγνωσις doctrine and saves the information in an organized manner.
2. As doctrinal information enters the *kardia*, the frame of reference classifies it by means of resident doctrine in the memory center, applicable vocabulary, and general knowledge of the pertinent category of systematic theology.
3. By calling up information from the memory center and vocabulary storage, the doctrinal category is stored under a division of systematic theology.
4. There are ten major categories of systematic theology under which all doctrines are classified:
(1) Bibliology, (2) Theology Proper, (3) Angelology & Satanology, (4) Anthropology, (5) Hamartiology, (6) Soteriology, (7) Ecclesiology, (8) Eschatology, (9) Christology, and (10) Pneumatology.³
5. Each doctrine is stored categorically under one or more of these divisions. For example, here is a principle that would require knowledge of several categories of systematic theology:

Biblical prophecy is not a look into the future predicting what will occur, but rather a look back from the future reporting what does occur.⁴

6. Knowledge is built on knowledge. The more doctrines processed by the frame of reference, the larger the compartment of categorical storage becomes.

³ This is the order presented by Lewis Sperry Chafer in his *Systematic Theology* (Dallas: Dallas Seminary Press, 1947), volumes 1–6.

⁴ Joe Griffin, *Ride with the Devil* (Shreveport Bible Conference, Shreveport, LA, Sept. 21, 2010), 9.

7. The more categories of doctrine which are available for recall, the greater the potential of the believer's application of doctrine to life.
8. The accumulation of doctrine in the frame of reference, vocabulary storage, memory center, and categorical storage, the more efficiently he can both learn and apply the Word.
9. We have just noted forty examples of vectors that represent various categories of doctrine and divisions of systematic theology.
10. If they are a part of a believer's inventory of ideas then they circulate in his stream of consciousness providing divine viewpoint to life and circumstances.
11. Every day, Jesus Christ takes note of that inventory. He is aware of your status quo, whether spiritual or carnal; He knows the momentum in your spiritual advance or your reversionistic decline due to an emotional reflux inside the cosmic systems.

Revelation 2:23 - "I will execute her [Jezebel's] followers by means of the sin unto death; and so all the churches [throughout the Church Age] will know that I am He Who constantly inventories the emotions and the stream of consciousness, and I will impose punishment to each one of you according to your production in the cosmic system."⁵

12. The Holy Spirit will keep each believer apprised of the power sphere in which he is currently functioning by means of his conscience.

⁵ See Jeremiah 11:20 and 17:10.