

Scripture and Christian Theology

Call for Papers 2026

Methods for Integrating Biblical Studies and Christian Theology

Aim. This panel invites papers that foreground Biblical Studies while making explicit how exegetical work interfaces with, disciplines, or revises claims in Christian Theology.

We welcome theoretical/methodological contributions and worked case studies that render the biblical studies + systematic theology interaction replicable and publicly checkable.

Focus at EABS. Submissions should be led by Biblical Studies (texts, corpora, methods) and show, with concrete steps, how this work informs doctrinal reasoning—or how doctrinal norms guide reading without predetermining outcomes.

Priority themes for 2026 (which could set the stage, but might be adapted for the following years if possible). We especially encourage papers that map onto one of the following:

1. Norms & authorities in interpretation (Christian canon, creeds, confessional statements)

- Canon as a theological norm; the regula fidei in practice
- Dei Verbum, sensus fidei, magisterium and scholarly exegesis
- Scripture and Holy Tradition in Orthodox practice
- Principled sola Scriptura disciplined by canon and rule

2. Methods of integration (protocols and adjudication)

- Reproducible movements from lexical/narrative/intertextual analysis to doctrinal predicates
- Criteria for when historical-critical results should revise doctrinal formulations (burdens of proof; doctrinal centrality; underdetermination)
- Collaborative workflows/peer review across BS and ST (co-authored papers welcome)

3. Old Testament case studies → doctrinal payoffs

- Isaiah and eschatology; creation & divine action; covenant & law; wisdom and the doctrine of God
- Narrative ethics: from OT stories to contemporary moral theology

4. New Testament case studies → doctrinal payoffs

- Johannine narrative/rhetoric and christology/soteriology
- Pauline justification and ecclesial unity
- Hebrews on priesthood and atonement
- Revelation and eschatological doctrine
- Memory theory and Christology

5. Doctrinal loci tested by Scripture (method-visible)

- Trinity; Christology; Anthropology/Original Sin; Ecclesiology & ministry; Sacraments > Each submission must show how the biblical evidence constrains or revises the locus.

6. Ecumenical analyses that make method visible

- What recent dialogue documents reveal about the BS+ST interface (e.g., justification; Petrine ministry)
- Liturgical-patristic hermeneutics as a living method

Please submit through the EABS portal a 200–300 word abstract. Helpful indications include information on:

1. Primary biblical corpus (book/passages) and methods employed.
2. Doctrinal locus or theological claim addressed, and the direction of influence (BS→ST, ST→BS, or both).
3. A brief method sketch (2–3 sentences) showing the steps from evidence to claim (or vice versa).
4. Confessional or institutional location if relevant (Orthodox/Catholic/Protestant/other Christian) and how it functions methodologically.

Co-authored (BS+ST) proposals and paired paper proposals (paper + formal response) are welcome.

Evaluation criteria

- Method transparency (are the steps replicable/checkable?).
- Biblical specificity (engagement with concrete texts, not only concepts).
- Theological traction (clear consequence for a doctrinal locus or norm).
- Fit with the panel's priority themes and balance across Christian traditions.

Participation & balance

- Submissions are welcome from junior and senior scholars.
- We actively seek Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant contributions, and particularly encourage proposals from Catholic and Orthodox, as well as from biblical scholars working at the BS-ST interface.
- International and interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged.

Selected papers may be invited for consideration in a subsequent edited volume on methodological interactions between Christian Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology. Invitation does not guarantee publication.

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