

Ecclesiology

Session 30



Dr. Andy Woods

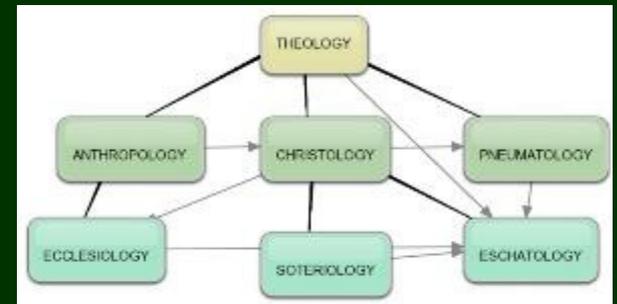
Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Areas of Systematic Theology

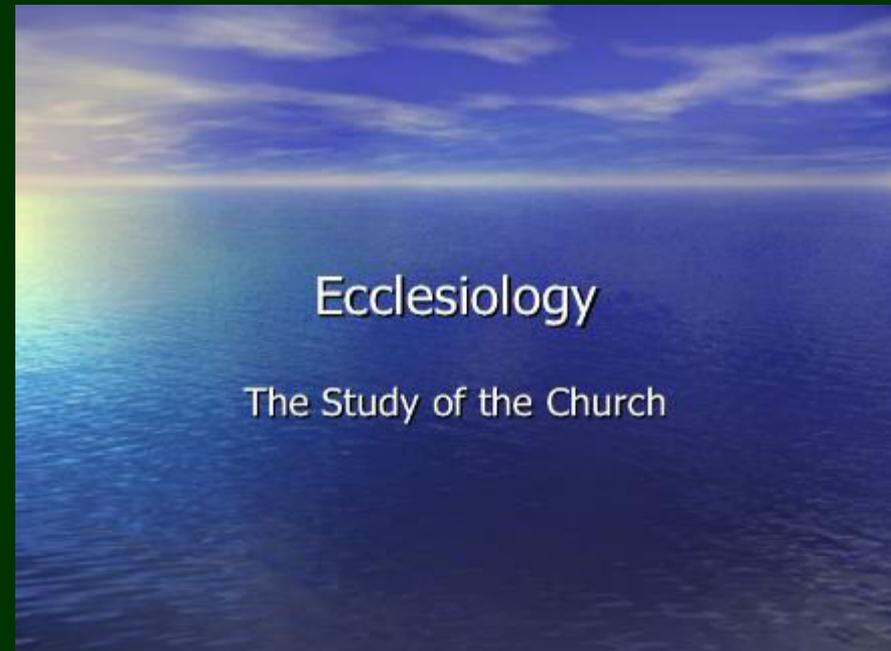
- Prolegomena – Introduction
- Theology – Study of God
- Christology – Study of Christ
- Pneumatology – Study of the Holy Spirit
- Anthropology – Study of Man
- Hamartiology – Study of sin
- Soteriology – Study of salvation
- Angelology – Study of angels
- **Ecclesiology – Study of the Church**
- Eschatology – Study of the end

Systematic Theology



Ecclesiology Overview

- I. Definition
- II. Universal vs. local
- III. Word pictures
- IV. Origin
- V. Israel – Church differences
- VI. Intercalation
- VII. Purposes**
- VIII. Activities
- IX. Government
- X. Officers
- XI. Ordinances
- XII. Purity

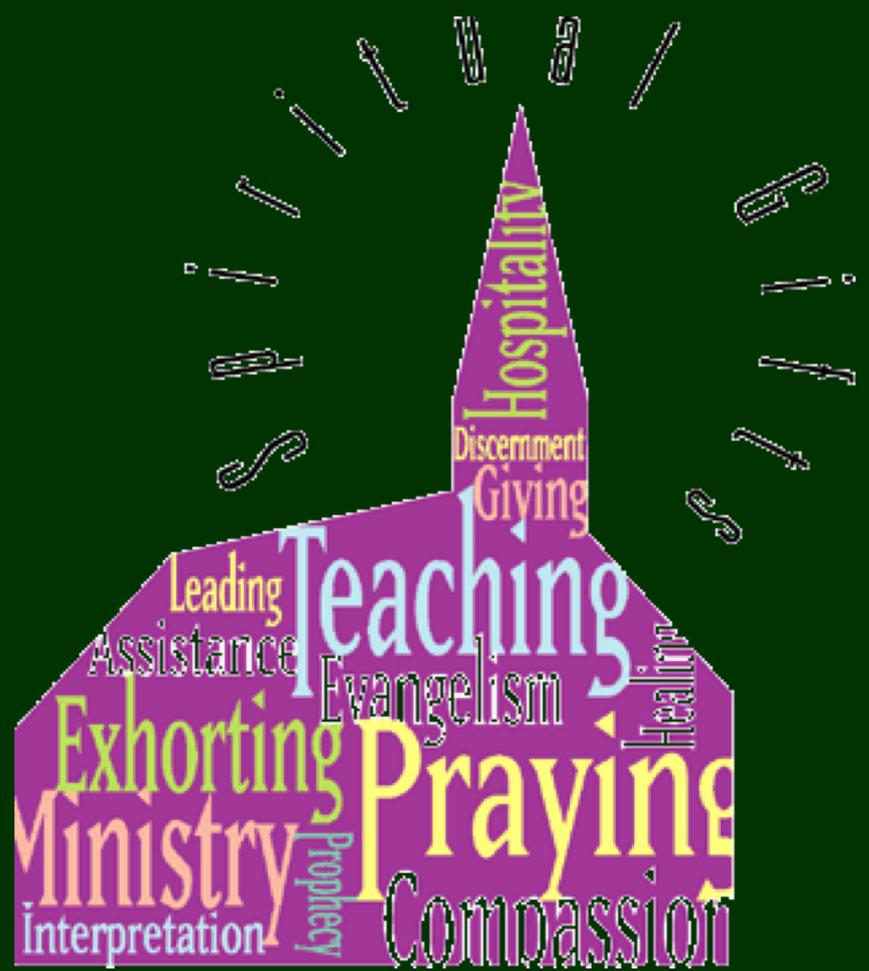


VII. Purposes of the Local Church



- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

Spiritual Gifts



Four Questions

1. What are some general observations about spiritual gifts?
2. Are all the spiritual gifts for today?
3. What are the spiritual gifts?
4. How do we discover our own unique area of gifting?



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The Case for Selective Cessationism

- I. Preliminary thoughts
- II. Four categories of gifts
 - A. Foundational (Eph 2:20)
 - B. Confirmatory (Heb 2:3-4)
 - C. Revelatory (Jude 3)
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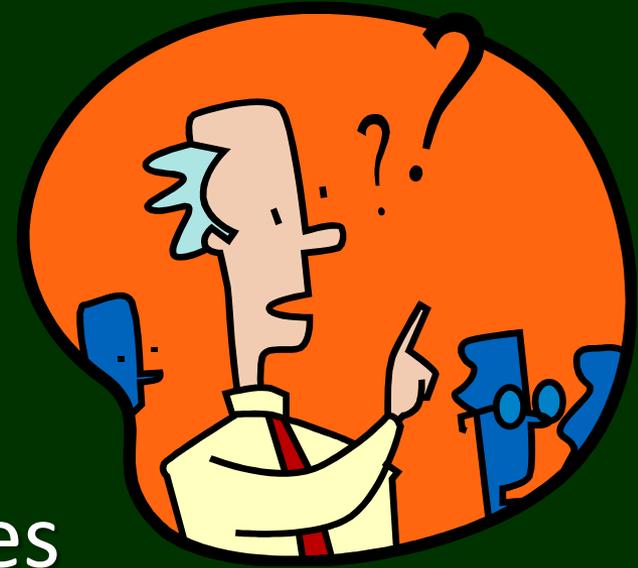
12/12/4/4

- Romans 12
- 1 Corinthians 12
- 1 Peter 4
- Ephesians 4



The 7 Disputed Gifts

1. Apostle
2. Prophet
3. Worker of Miracles
4. Tongues
5. Interpretation of tongues
6. Healing
7. Knowledge



Two Camps

1. Charismatics – All the spiritual gifts are in operation today
2. Cessationists (selective)– Most of the spiritual gifts are in operation today



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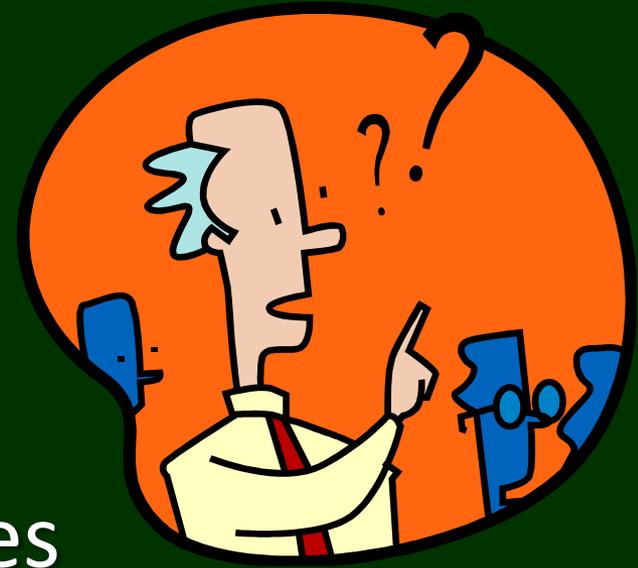
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Ephesians 2:20

“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*,”



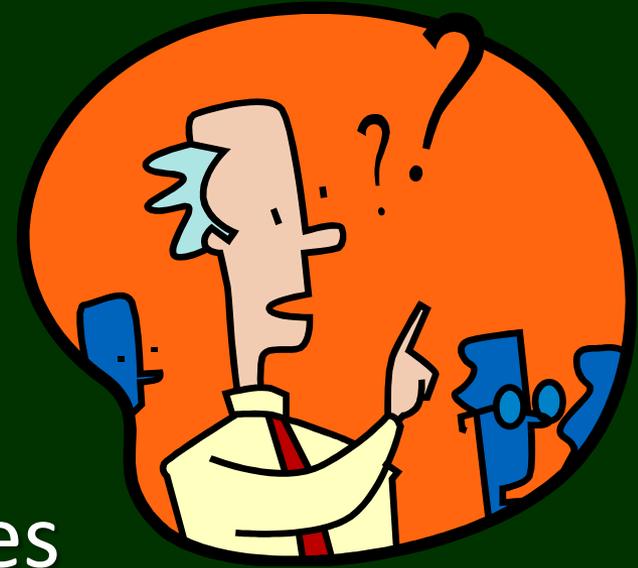
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Miracle Clusters In Scripture

NUM.	ERA	AUTHENTICATION
1.	Moses	Law
2.	Joshua	Conquest
3.	Elijah-Elisha	Prophet
4.	Christ	Kingdom offer
5.	Apostles	Church
6.	Tribulation & Millennium	Kingdom establishment

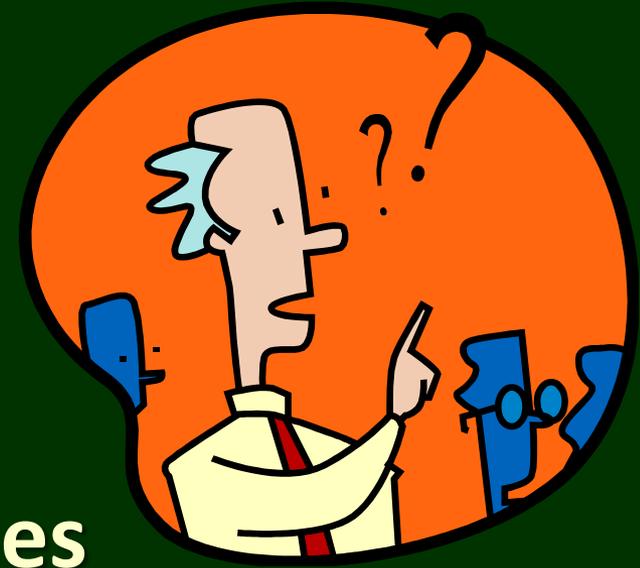
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The Revelatory Gifts

1. Prophet (Deut. 18:18; 2 Pet. 1:20-21; Eph. 3:5; 1 Cor. 14:29-30; Acts 11:28; 21:10-11)
2. Knowledge (1 Cor. 13:2, 8-9; 14:6)
3. Tongues & Interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 14:21-22 vs. 26-27)

b. Love Emphasis (1 Cor. 13)

1. Necessity of love (13:1-3)
2. Nature of love (13:4-7)
3. Endurance of love (13:8-13)



1 Corinthians 13:8-10

“⁸ Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect [teleios] comes, the partial will be done away.”



1 Corinthians 13:11-13

“¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. ¹³ But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.”



“The Perfect” [teleios] in 1 Cor. 13:10

Three Interpretations

1. Eschaton or End
2. Maturity of the Church
3. Completion of the NT canon

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1. “The Perfect” [*teleios*] in 1 Cor. 13:10 = The Eschaton or End

- a) Something ideal, perfect, unblemished
- b) Death, rapture, 2nd advent, eternal state
(vs. 12; Rev. 22:4)
- c) “Now” (vs. 12) = revelatory gifts continuing
until the end
- d) “Then” (vs. 12) = revelatory gifts ceasing
after the end
- e) Most popular view

Problems with the Eschaton View

1. *'Teleios'* never means perfection but maturity
2. *'Teleios'* never used of Eschatological events
3. Perfection (quality) does not provide a suitable antithesis to "in part" [*ek meros*] of verses 10, 12 (quantitative)
4. Eschatological events happen immediately making the analogy of vs. 11 difficult
5. *'Teleios'* is neuter while the personal coming of Christ would require a masculine adjective
6. Allows an open canon (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19)

“The Perfect” [teleios] in 1 Cor. 13:10

Three Interpretations

1. Eschaton or End
- 2. Maturity of the Church**
3. Completion of the NT canon

2. “The Perfect” [teleios] in 1 Cor. 13:10 = Church’s Maturity

- a) Canon, unity, independence, death of the apostles, AD 70
- b) “Now” (vs. 12) = revelatory gifts continuing until end of first century
- c) “Then” (vs. 12) = revelatory gifts cease in the second century
- d) Closer to the truth than the Eschaton view

Strengths of the Maturity View

1. Consistent with “infants” and “adulthood” (vs. 11)
2. Fits context of 1 Corinthians (3:1-3)
3. *Teleios* = maturity in 1 Corinthians 2:6 and 14:20
4. *Teleios* = maturity in the NT (Philip. 3:15; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28; 4:12)

Problems with the Maturity View

1. Maturity (quality) does not provide a suitable antithesis to “in part” [*ek meros*] of verses 10, 12 (quantitative)
2. Criteria for depicting the church’s maturity is arbitrary
 - a. Canon, unity, independence, death of the apostles?
 - b. AD 70 vs. AD 135?
 - c. Church remains immature (1 Cor. 3:3; Eph. 4:11-12)

“The Perfect” [teleios] in 1 Cor. 13:10

Three Interpretations

1. Eschaton or End
2. Maturity of the Church
3. Completion of the NT canon

3. “The Perfect” [*teleios*] in 1 Cor. 13:10 = The Completed Canon

- a. “Now” (vs. 12) = revelatory gifts continuing throughout the apostolic and pre-NT canon era
- b. “Then” (vs. 12) = revelatory gifts cease in the post-apostolic and post-NT canon era
- c. 1st century revelatory gifts were “in part” [*ek meros*] (vs. 10, 12)
- d. Superseded by a sufficient (2 Tim. 3:17; 2 Pet. 1:3-4) and completed (Jude 3; Rev. 22:18-19) NT canon

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**Lord,
please talk
to me**



Strengths of the Completed NT Canon View

1. Completed NT canon (quantitative) provides a suitable antithesis to “in part” [*ek meros*] of verses 10, 12 (quantitative)
2. *Teleios* is used in James (AD 44–47) for Scripture (1:25)
3. The canon view handles well the mirror [*esoptron*] analogy of verse 12 (Jas. 1:23) since Scripture furnishes us with realistic self assessment (Gal. 3:24; Rom. 5:20; 7:7; Jas. 1:23-25)
4. The canon view handles well the immediate “now” [*arti*] of verse 12 and the distant “non” [*nyni*] of verse 13

Problems with the Canon View Answered

1. **“Face to face”** (vs. 12a) refers not to fellowship with God (Judges 6:22) but rather revelation from God (Num. 12:6-8) allowing honest self assessment (Jas. 1:23)
2. **“Knowing as known”** (vs. 12b) refers not to omniscience but rather to the Spirit’s illumination (John 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:9-15)
3. **Completed NT canon is in the immediate context** since Paul understood the notion of an OT canon & was also aware of a limited body of NT inspired writings (1 Tim. 1:12, 14; 6:20; 2 Tim. 4:13; 2 Pet. 3:15)
4. **Whole chapter not for us?** All Scripture is for us (Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16) but not directly about us

Judges 6:22

“When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, ‘Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.’”



Numbers 12:6-8

⁶ He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream.
⁷ "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?"



1 Corinthians 13:11-12

“¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror [esoptron] dimly, but then face to face [prosōpon pros prosōpon] ; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.”



James 1:22-23

“²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror [esoptron].”



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D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

D. Martyn Lloyd Jones, *Prove All Things*, ed. Christopher Catherwood
(Eastbourne, England: Kingsway, 1985), 32–33.

“It means that you and I, who have the Scriptures open before us, know much more than the apostle Paul of Gods truth...It means that we are altogether superior...even to the apostles themselves, including the apostle Paul! It means that we are now in a position which . . . ‘we know, even as we are known’ by God . . . indeed, there is only one word to describe such a view, it is nonsense.”

John 16:12-15

¹² “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.”



1 Corinthians 2:9-12

⁹ but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” ¹⁰ For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches **all things**, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may **know the things freely given to us by God...**”



1 Corinthians 2:13-16

¹³ which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*. ¹⁴ But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. ¹⁵ But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. ¹⁶ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.



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2 Timothy 4:13

“When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments.”



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2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”



Romans 15:4

“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”



1 Corinthians 13:8-10

“⁸ Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophecy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect [teleios] comes, the partial will be done away.”



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- 1. Prophets are predicted in the future** (Joel 2:28-32; Rev. 11:3-13)? Israel-Church distinction
- 2. Leaves the church without the ability to understand and proclaim Scripture?** These revelatory gifts transitioned into edificatory gifts
- 3. Cessationists are anti- super-naturalists?** Today God miraculously intervenes directly
- 4. You are putting God in a box?** God's work is limited based upon the parameters that God Himself has already set (Isa. 64:6: Heb. 6:18)

Apostolic Gift of Healing

Healing Today

No prayer

Prayer

Indirect

Direct

Apostles

Physicians

Instantaneous

Gradual

Common

Less common

Automatic

Non-automatic

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