


## Ecclesiology

Session 21



**Dr. Andy Woods**

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church  
President – Chafer Theological Seminary

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### 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




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### 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




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### 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)

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### Three Misdirected Church Purposes



- Holistic Redemption
- Social Gospel
- Bringing in the Kingdom

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### The Church & the Social Gospel



“Ward recruited pupils, associates and disciples to his crusade to produce, in his words: ‘...a changed attitude on the part of many church members concerning the purpose and function both of the Church and Christianity.’”

John A. Stormer, None Dare Call It Treason: The Carefully Documented Story of America's Retreat from Victory (Florissant, MO: Liberty Bell Press, 1964), 126.

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### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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




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### Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>11</sup> And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;"




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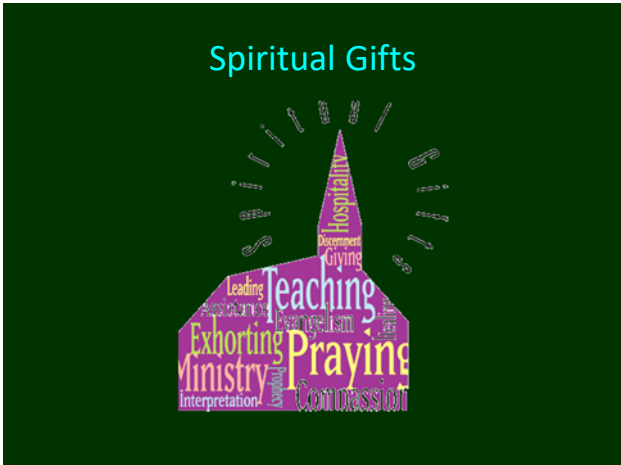
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**Systematic  
Theology**

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graph TD
    A[Systematic Theology] --> B[Theology]
    A --> C[Pneumatology]
    B --> D[God]
    B --> E[Christ]
    B --> F[Man]
    C --> G[The Holy Spirit]
    C --> H[The Church]
    
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**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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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #1

- Spiritual gifts are Spirit empowered abilities for service (John 13:15)




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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #2

- God sovereignly bestows all the Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:11; Heb 2:4)




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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #3

- Every believer has at least one Spiritual gift (1 Cor 12:7; Eph 4:7; 1 Pet 4:10)




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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #4

- Believers obtain their Spiritual gifts at the point of salvation (Heb 2:4; Rom 8:9)




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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #5

- Spiritual gifts are not the same as natural abilities or talents




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Talents vs. Spiritual Gifts		
	NATURAL TALENTS	SPIRITUAL GIFTS
Source	From God Through Parents	From God Independent of Parents
Possessed	From birth	From conversion
Purpose	To benefit mankind in general	To edify the church

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**Talents vs. Spiritual Gifts**

“The natural abilities of the unsaved are not spiritual gifts. This much is certain. However, it is likely that sometimes the Holy Spirit transforms a purely natural ability by channeling it into God’s work after conversion to Christ. In other cases, the Holy Spirit probably bestows brand new aptitudes, interests, and abilities.”

Steven Waterhouse, *Not By Bread Alone*, 291

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**Spiritual Gifts: Observation #6**

- Spiritual gifts are given in order to edify the church (1 Cor 12:7; 14:12, 26; Eph 4:11-12; 1 Pet 4:10)




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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #7

- Spiritual gifts are diverse (1 Cor 12:4-6)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #8

- Spiritual gifts represent differing manifestations of God's grace (1 Pet 4:10)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #10

- No single person possesses all of the Spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:29-30)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #10

God uses Spiritual gifts to promote unity in His church (1 Cor 12)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #11

■ Spiritual gifts are not to be confused with the fruit of the Spirit (1 Cor 1:7)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #12

■ Spiritual gifts are not always the same as an office



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #13

- Spiritual gifts is not always the same as a sphere of influence



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #14

- Spiritual gifts are irrevocable this side of eternity (Rom 11:29)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #15

- Spiritual gifts do not cancel the basic duties of all believers



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #16

- Spiritual gifts need development (2 Tim 1:6)



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #17

- Spiritual gifts can be neglected
  - ◆ 1 Tim 4:14
  - ◆ Matt 25:25-26



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### Spiritual Gifts: Observation #18

- Awareness of our Spiritual gifts render us accountable (Matt 25:19; Rom 14:12)



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# Conclusion

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