


Ecclesiology

Session 26




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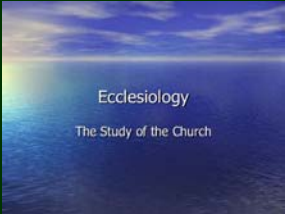
Areas of Systematic Theology

- 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



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)

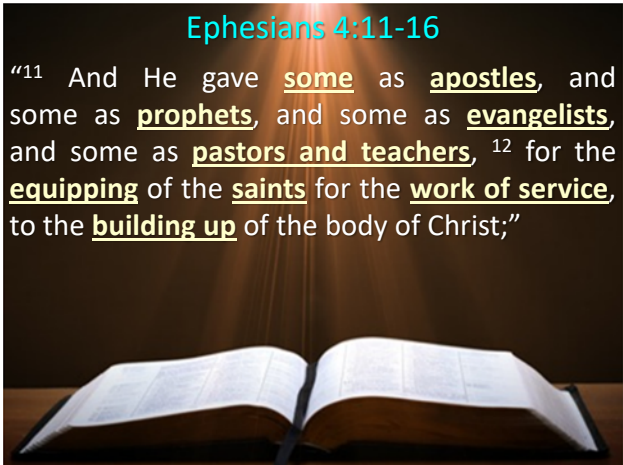
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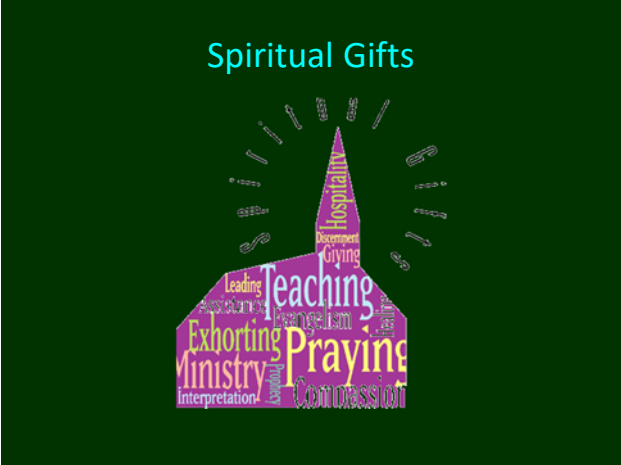


- Glorify God (Eph 3:21)
- Edify the saints (Eph 4:11-16)
- Fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

Ephesians 4:11-16

“¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;”





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Systematic Theology

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)

D. Edificatory gifts continue (Eph. 4:11-16)

III. Church history and selective cessationism

IV. Proper operation of the Sign & Revelatory gifts


V. True source of the charismatic movement

VI. Explanation of the Charismatic movement's popularity



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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



Preamble to Position Statements of SLBC Constitution

“Although agreement with the **POSITION STATEMENTS** is not required for membership, they are taught in this church. The **POSITION STATEMENTS** are **not meant to prohibit** honest and healthy discussions concerning what the Bible teaches about these issues; however, we believe that such discussions must be conducted under the guiding principle that believers are to strive to maintain unity.”

SLBC Position Statement No. 7

“TEMPORARY SPIRITUAL GIFTS – This church teaches that the miraculous sign gifts, including the gift of tongues, (always the ability to speak in a previously unlearned, known language) along with the gift of healings were temporal gifts, given by the Holy Spirit solely to authenticate both the apostles and their message before the close of the canon of Scripture (1 Cor. 13:8-10). We do not believe that these are active as gifts today. However, we affirm that God is sovereign and may heal and/or give someone the ability to speak in a tongue (foreign language) today. We believe that the majority of what is termed ‘miraculous’ within the contemporary charismatic movement is something other than the Biblical gifts of tongues or healing.”

The Case for Selective Cessationism

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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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2. Prophet

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Sugar Land Bible Church

8

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

Apostolic Gift of Healing	Healing Today
No prayer	Prayer
Indirect	Direct
Apostles	Physicians
Instantaneous	Gradual
Common	Less common
Automatic	Non-automatic

Automatic Healing Today?
1. Scripture – Gal. 4:13; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20
2. False guilt
3. False view of God
4. Sickness is sometimes caused by sin – John 5:14; 1 Cor. 11:30
5. Sickness is not always caused by sin – Job 1:1-2, 5; 2:7-8; Ps. 34:19
6. Theology of suffering
7. Healing is only guaranteed (Isa. 53:4; 1 Pet. 2:24-25) in the Eternal State – Rom. 8:22-23; Isa. 65:20; Rev. 21:4

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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)
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INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

2 Peter 1:20-21

■ Men Wrote as they were inspired by Holy Spirit
"phero" = to carry
Acts 27:15,17

■ Opposite of Knowledge of False Teachers
◆ Which is their own imagination
◆ Jer. 23:16



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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 comes, the partial will be done away."



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1 Corinthians 14:21-22

"²¹ In the Law it is written, 'BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME,' says the Lord. ²² So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy *is for a sign*, not to unbelievers but to those who believe."



1 Corinthians 14:26-27

“²⁶ What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷ If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret.”



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Spiritual Gifts
(1 Corinthians 12–14)

1. Unity (1:11; 3:22; 6; 8–10; 11:18-19; 12:25; 15:12)

2. Corinthians 12–14

- a. Many gifts for use in one Body – 1 Cor. 12
- b. The needed emphasis of Love – 1 Cor. 13
- c. Priority and Order – 1 Cor. 14

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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)




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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.”



Endurance of Love Emphasis
(1 Cor. 13:8-13)

- a. Unlike Love, the revelatory gifts will cease (8-10)
- b. Two illustrations (11-12)
 - a. Immaturity to maturity (11)
 - b. Limited to full sight (12)
- c. Unlike love, Faith (2 Cor. 5:7) and Hope (Rom. 8:24) will cease (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.”



“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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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.”

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

Three Interpretations

1. Eschaton or End

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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)


Jude 3

“³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”



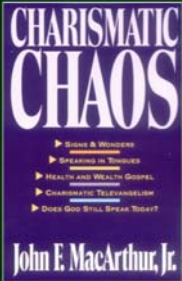
Revelation 22:18-19

“¹⁸I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.”



John MacArthur

Charismatic Chaos, p. 66-84



Montanism

Roman Catholicism

Neo-orthodoxy

Mormonism

“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)

4 Kinds of People from 1 Corinthians 3:1-3



1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NKJV)

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual people** but as to **carnal**, as to **babes** in Christ. ² I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to *receive it*, and even now you are still not able; ³ **for you are still carnal**. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, **are you not carnal** and behaving like *mere men*?



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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)


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Ephesians 4:13-14

"¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;"



Conclusion

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