

Week 12: Dialogue with Modern Theology

Topic: Engaging with Major Trends in Modern Theology from the Perspective of Pauline Theology

Objective: To understand key ideas in modern theology, identify points of tension and dialogue with Pauline theology, and cultivate the ability to engage critically while preserving the essence of the gospel.

1. Overview of Major Trends in Modern Theology

1) Liberal Theology:

- (1) Emphasizes human reason and morality, often downplays miracles and the supernatural
- (2) Conflict with Pauline theology: risks undermining the centrality of the cross and grace

2) Existential Theology (e.g., Bultmann):

- (1) Interprets faith as an existential decision or personal response
 - (2) Tension: tends to neglect the historical reality of the gospel events
- Process Theology:
- (3) Sees God as changeable and interacting with creation
 - (4) Conflict: contradicts Paul's view of God's sovereignty and unchanging grace

3) Liberation Theology / Minjung Theology / Feminist Theology, etc.:

- (1) Focuses on social justice and the liberation of the oppressed
- (2) Common ground: God's concern for the weak and marginalized
- (3) Caution: the need to balance personal salvation and social transformation

2. Core of Pauline Theology and Its Response to Modern Theology

1) Centrality of the Cross:

- (1) God's ultimate solution to the problem of sin
- (2) No philosophical or theological idea can replace this truth

2) Salvation by Grace through Faith:

- (1) Denies human effort or merit
- (2) Stands opposed to anthropocentric trends in modern theology

3) Creation of a New Person and New Community:

- (1) Transformation begins with forgiveness and new creation in Christ
- (2) Social justice must be rooted in gospel transformation

3. The Need for Critical and Constructive Dialogue

- 1) Do not reject modern theology without discernment; engage critically through the lens of the gospel
- 2) Find common ground where possible, but never compromise the essence of the gospel
- 3) Reaffirm the role of Pauline theology in preserving gospel integrity in today's church and theology

4. Summary Table

Category	Modern Theology	Pauline Theology
Focus	Human / Society	God / The Cross
View of Salvation	Ethics & Liberation	Grace & Faith
View of Scripture	Critical / Symbolic	Revelatory / Historical
View of God	Interactive, Changing	Sovereign Creator