

24. Pauline Theology vs Modern Theology

1. The Essence of the Gospel

1) Pauline Theology:

The gospel is the righteousness of God revealed through the grace given by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:16–17; Galatians 1:6–9)

2) Modern Theology:

The gospel often includes human experience, culture, psychology, and social justice, sometimes relativizing the exclusivity of Christ and the atonement of the cross.

2. Authority in Theology

1) Pauline Theology:

The Bible, as the Word of God, is the sole and absolute authority in theology.

2) Modern Theology:

Tends to give equal or greater weight to tradition, reason, experience, and the spirit of the age alongside or above Scripture.

3. Anthropology and Soteriology

1) Pauline Theology:

Humanity is totally depraved and can be saved only by God's sovereign grace. (Ephesians 2:1–9)

2) Modern Theology:

Sometimes emphasizes a positive view of human nature and the potential for self-redemption.

4. The Church and the Identity of Believers

1) Pauline Theology:

The church is the body of Christ, and believers are a holy people united with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

2) Modern Theology:

Reduces the church to a social or religious institution and redefines believer identity in secular terms.

5. Eschatology and Hope

1) Pauline Theology:

Longs for the second coming and the eternal kingdom, which leads believers to live in holiness today.

2) Modern Theology:

Focuses more on present welfare or societal reform, often interpreting eschatology symbolically.

Conclusion

1) Pauline theology is Bible-centered, grace-centered, and Christ centered, while modern theology is often a hybrid influenced by humanism, relativism, and secularism.

2) Returning to Pauline theology is the path to restoring the essence of the gospel and the identity of the Church.