

3. Paul and New Testament Theology

I. Introduction

1) Paul's Role:

Paul is a central figure in New Testament theology, articulating key theological concepts in a systematic way.

2) Definition of New Testament Theology:

A theological discipline that synthesizes the unified message of God's revelation and redemptive history as presented in the entire New Testament.

II. Central Themes of Pauline Theology

1) Justification

Justification by faith

The contrast between Law and Grace

2) Christocentrism

New creation in Christ

Emphasis on the incarnation and the cross

3) The Holy Spirit and New Life

Transformation through the Spirit

The Spirit and the Christian community

4) Eschatological Tension (Already–Not Yet)

The tension between already accomplished salvation and its future consummation

III. Paul's Relationship with Other New Testament Theologians

1) Continuity with Jesus' Teachings

Harmony and Distinctions with the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John

Tensions and Complementarities with James and Peter

IV. Paul's Influence on the Formation of New Testament Theology

- 1) Key role in the formation of the New Testament canon
 - 2) Systematization of theology in the early church
 - 3) Foundational to Protestant theology, especially during the Reformation
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V. Conclusion

Paul is a key interpreter of New Testament theology, and his epistles provide profound insight into the theological essence of the gospel.