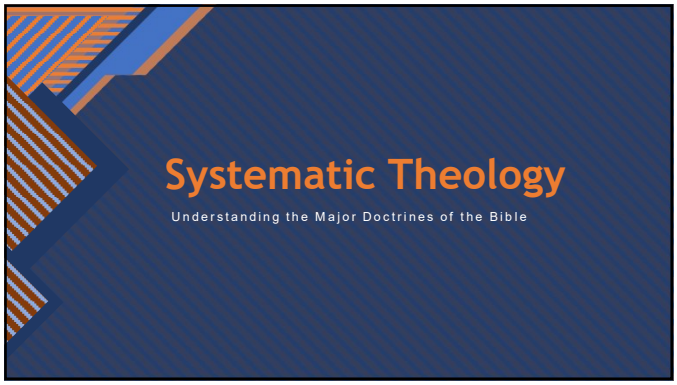

Systematic Theology
Understanding the Major Doctrines of the Bible

1


Honor our time and one another
Time: We will start and end on time. Each class is limited to two hours.
Questions: Please post questions in the chat.
Responses: Please limit responses to 1–2 minutes.
Engagement: Come prepared to think critically, share perspectives, and connect Scripture to Christian life and ministry.
Respect: We may have different perspectives. Listen respectfully and support your understanding with Scripture.
Our Goal: To deepen our theological understanding and apply what we learn to life and ministry.

2


God, His Revelation, & His Creation
Foundations of Christian Belief

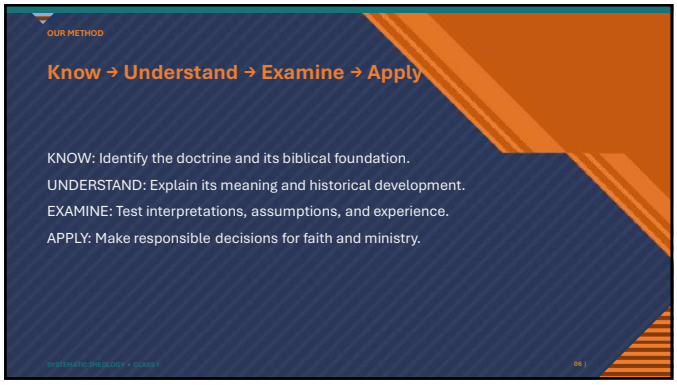
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Essential Question: Who is God, how has He revealed Himself, and what does it mean to be created in His image?
Bibliology — Doctrine of Scripture
Theology Proper — Doctrine of God
Paterology — Doctrine of God the Father
Christology — Doctrine of Christ
Pneumatology — Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (overview)
Creation — Doctrine of Creation
Theological Anthropology — Doctrine of Humanity

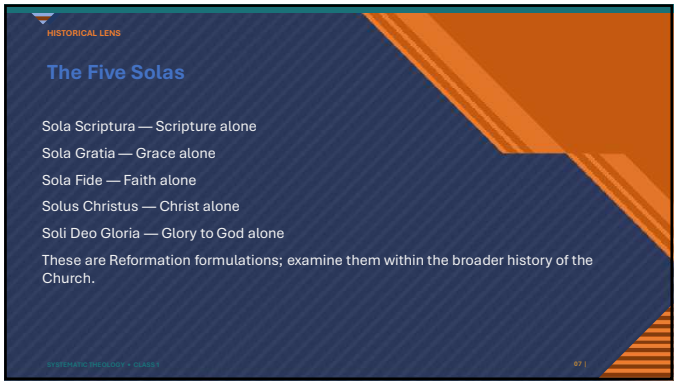
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October 22, 2026 Class Review
THE BIBLE BY E. MACLELLAND
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

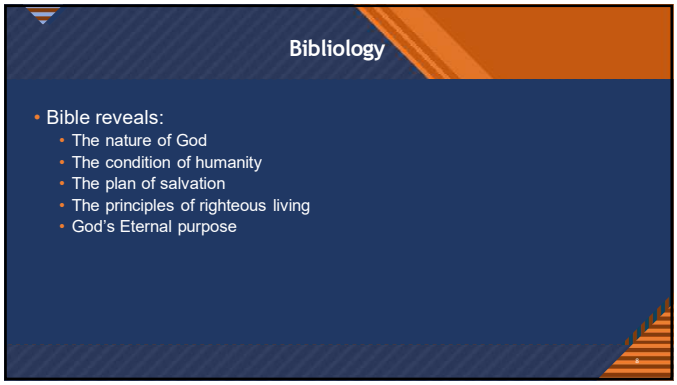
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OUR METHOD
Know → Understand → Examine → Apply
KNOW: Identify the doctrine and its biblical foundation.
UNDERSTAND: Explain its meaning and historical development.
EXAMINE: Test interpretations, assumptions, and experience.
APPLY: Make responsible decisions for faith and ministry.

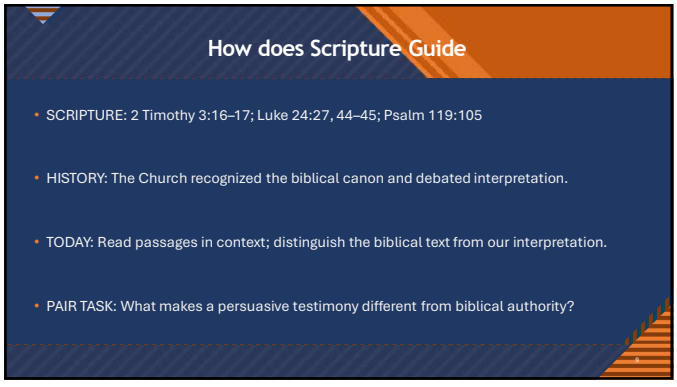
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HISTORICAL LENS
The Five Solas
Sola Scriptura — Scripture alone
Sola Gratia — Grace alone
Sola Fide — Faith alone
Solus Christus — Christ alone
Soli Deo Gloria — Glory to God alone
These are Reformation formulations; examine them within the broader history of the Church.

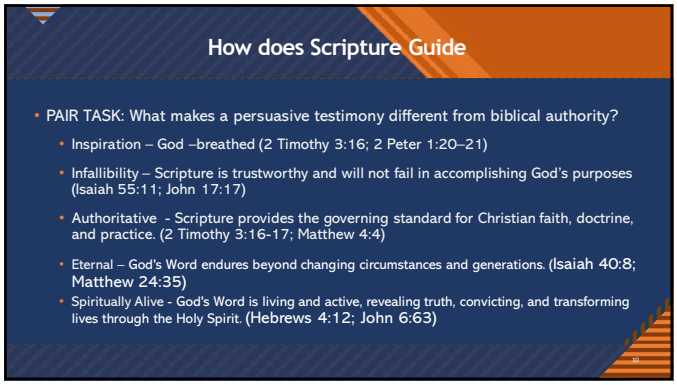
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Bibliology
Bible reveals:
The nature of God
The condition of humanity
The plan of salvation
The principles of righteous living
God's Eternal purpose

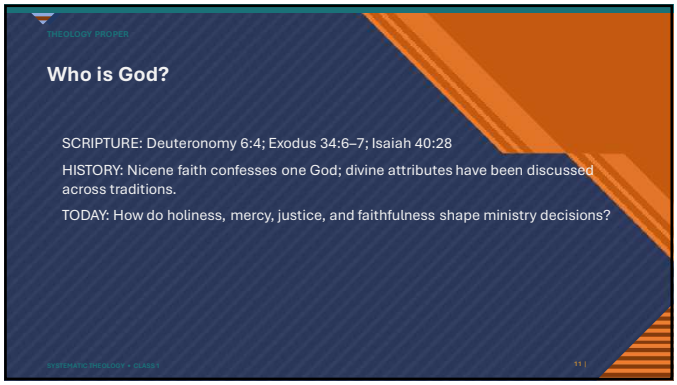
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How does Scripture Guide
SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Luke 24:27, 44–45; Psalm 119:105
HISTORY: The Church recognized the biblical canon and debated interpretation.
TODAY: Read passages in context; distinguish the biblical text from our interpretation.
PAIR TASK: What makes a persuasive testimony different from biblical authority?

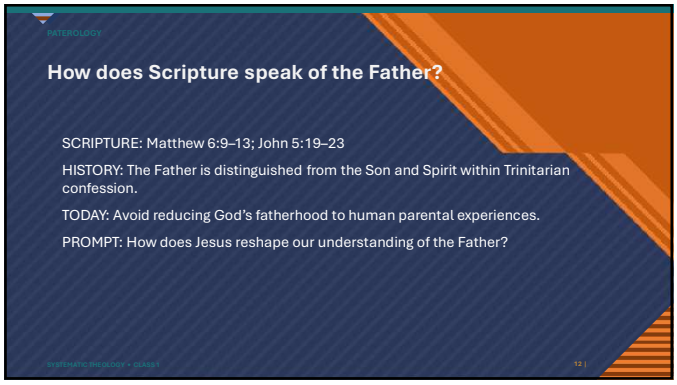
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How does Scripture Guide
• PAIR TASK: What makes a persuasive testimony different from biblical authority?
• Inspiration – God –breathed (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20–21)
• Infallibility – Scripture is trustworthy and will not fail in accomplishing God's purposes (Isaiah 55:11; John 17:17)
• Authoritative - Scripture provides the governing standard for Christian faith, doctrine, and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 4:4)
• Eternal – God's Word endures beyond changing circumstances and generations. (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35)
• Spiritually Alive - God's Word is living and active, revealing truth, convicting, and transforming lives through the Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 4:12; John 6:63)

10


THEOLOGY PROPER
Who is God?
SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 34:6–7; Isaiah 40:28
HISTORY: Nicene faith confesses one God; divine attributes have been discussed across traditions.
TODAY: How do holiness, mercy, justice, and faithfulness shape ministry decisions?

11


PATEROLOGY
How does Scripture speak of the Father?
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:9–13; John 5:19–23
HISTORY: The Father is distinguished from the Son and Spirit within Trinitarian confession.
TODAY: Avoid reducing God's fatherhood to human parental experiences.
PROMPT: How does Jesus reshape our understanding of the Father?

12

CHRISTOLOGY

Who is Jesus Christ?

SCRIPTURE: John 1:1–14; Philippians 2:5–11; Colossians 1:15–20

HISTORY: Nicaea (325) and Chalcedon (451) helped articulate the Church's confession of Christ.

TODAY: Why must both Jesus' full divinity and full humanity matter for salvation and pastoral care?

13

The Heart Shaped Herb and the Ancestral Plane

In *Black Panther*, T'Challa participates in a ceremony involving the Heart-Shaped Herb. The ceremony is deeply rooted in Wakandan tradition and represents a connection between the living, their ancestors, and the responsibilities of leadership.

Notice that the ceremony is not simply about receiving physical strength. It also reflects Wakanda's understanding of spiritual authority, identity, and the relationship between past and present generations.

As we consider this scene, I want us to think beyond the movie.



14

SPECIFIC FILM SCENE

What happens when contemporary society & cultural traditions collide with the teachings of the Bible

Groups 1, 2, 3: Bibliology — The Authority of Scripture
What spiritual beliefs and traditions are represented in the ceremony?
How does Scripture help us evaluate these beliefs and practices?
When tradition and Scripture appear to conflict, how should Christians respond?

Group 4, 5, 6: Theology Proper — The Nature of God
What does the ceremony suggest about the source of spiritual power and authority?
How does this compare with the biblical understanding of God's sovereignty and His relationship with humanity?
What happens when people attribute spiritual power or authority to something other than God?

Group 7, 8, 9 & 10: Christology — The Person and Work of Christ
What role do the ancestors play in T'Challa's search for guidance?
How does this compare with the biblical teaching concerning Jesus Christ as mediator between God and humanity?
How should our understanding of Christ influence the way we seek spiritual guidance?

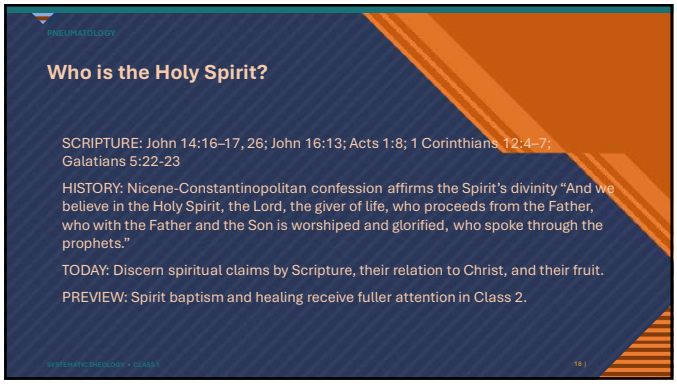
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DISCUSS • 15 MINUTES
What happens when contemporary society & cultural traditions collide with the teachings of the Bible
Instructions for All Groups:
Select a facilitator and spokesperson.
Use Know → Understand → Examine → Apply to guide your discussion.
Support your conclusions with Scripture.
Prepare a 2-minute report identifying the biblical principle, the theological concern, and one application to Christian life or ministry (20 minutes for total activity)
Application: How would you respond to a church member who believes these practices are compatible with Christianity?
Be prepared to identify one biblical principle, explain its theological significance, and describe how you would apply it in ministry.
"When Scripture and tradition appear to conflict, a biblically grounded Christian response should _____ because _____."
Our Goal: To develop a theology that is biblically grounded, Christ-centered, historically informed, and responsive to human experience.
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY • CLASS 1
16 | 20 min

16


New Learning

17


PNEUMATOLOGY
Who is the Holy Spirit?
SCRIPTURE: John 14:16–17, 26; John 16:13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7; Galatians 5:22-23
HISTORY: Nicene-Constantinopolitan confession affirms the Spirit's divinity "And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who spoke through the prophets."
TODAY: Discern spiritual claims by Scripture, their relation to Christ, and their fruit.
PREVIEW: Spirit baptism and healing receive fuller attention in Class 2.
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY • CLASS 1
18 |

18

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

One God • Three distinct persons

The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. Yet God is one.

NOT three gods; NOT one person merely changing roles.

God is Creator → Humanity is created in His image → Human dignity creates moral and ministry responsibilities.

Reflect: Why does the Trinity matter for Christian prayer, worship, and salvation?

19

The Holy Spirit

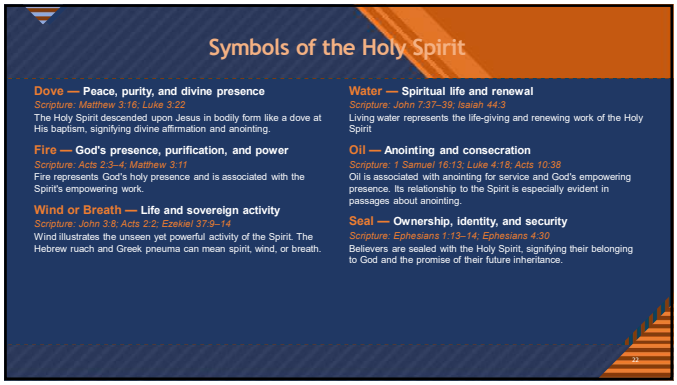
- Convicts of sin
- Teaches truth
- Reveal the Father and Son to us
- Regenerates believers
- He purifies
- Empowers believers and the Church
- Distributes Spiritual Gifts
- Lead believers into truth
- Produce Spiritual Fruit
- He reveals the future to us

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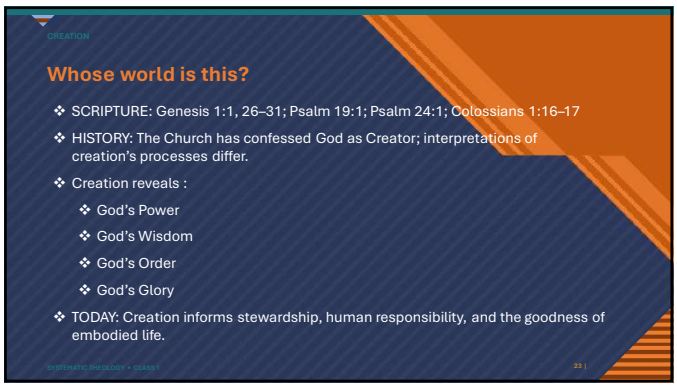
The Nature of the Holy Spirit

Name or Title	Scripture	Significance
Spirit of God	*Genesis 1:2; Romans 8:9*	His deity and relationship to God
Spirit of Christ	*Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11*	His relationship to Jesus Christ
Comforter / Advocate / Helper (Paraklētos)	*John 14:16, 26*	Comforts, teaches, and helps believers
Holy Spirit / Holy Ghost	*Luke 11:13; Matthew 1:18*	His holiness and divine nature
Spirit of Truth	*John 14:17; John 16:13*	Guides believers into truth
Spirit of Grace	*Hebrews 10:29*	Associated with God's grace
Spirit of Life	*Romans 8:2*	Gives spiritual life and freedom
Spirit of Adoption	*Romans 8:15*	Assures believers of their relationship with God as His children
Spirit of Promise	*Ephesians 1:13-14*	Coming fulfills God's promise to give His Spirit to His People

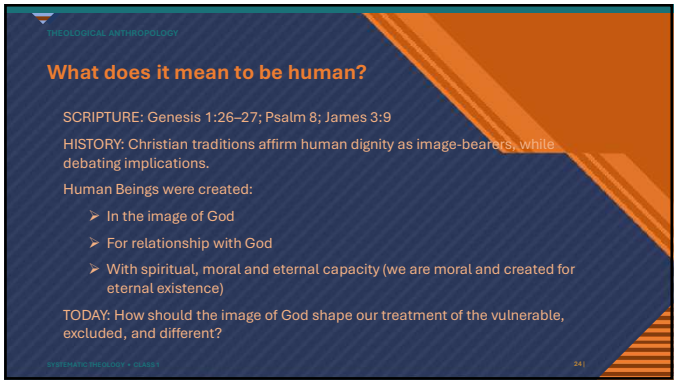
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Symbols of the Holy Spirit
Dove — Peace, purity, and divine presence
Scripture: Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:22
The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in bodily form like a dove at His baptism, signifying divine affirmation and anointing.
Fire — God's presence, purification, and power
Scripture: Acts 2:3–4; Matthew 3:11
Fire represents God's holy presence and is associated with the Spirit's empowering work.
Wind or Breath — Life and sovereign activity
Scripture: John 3:8; Acts 2:2; Ezekiel 37:9–14
Wind illustrates the unseen yet powerful activity of the Spirit. The Hebrew ruach and Greek pneuma can mean spirit, wind, or breath.
Water — Spiritual life and renewal
Scripture: John 7:37–39; Isaiah 44:3
Living water represents the life-giving and renewing work of the Holy Spirit
Oil — Anointing and consecration
Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:13; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38
Oil is associated with anointing for service and God's empowering presence. Its relationship to the Spirit is especially evident in passages about anointing.
Seal — Ownership, identity, and security
Scripture: Ephesians 1:13–14; Ephesians 4:30
Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit, signifying their belonging to God and the promise of their future inheritance.
22

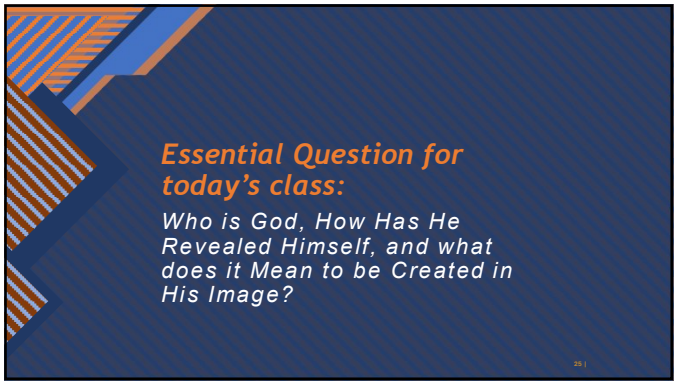
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CREATION
Whose world is this?
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:1, 26–31; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 24:1; Colossians 1:16–17
HISTORY: The Church has confessed God as Creator; interpretations of creation's processes differ.
Creation reveals :
God's Power
God's Wisdom
God's Order
God's Glory
TODAY: Creation informs stewardship, human responsibility, and the goodness of embodied life.
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY • CLASS 1
23 |

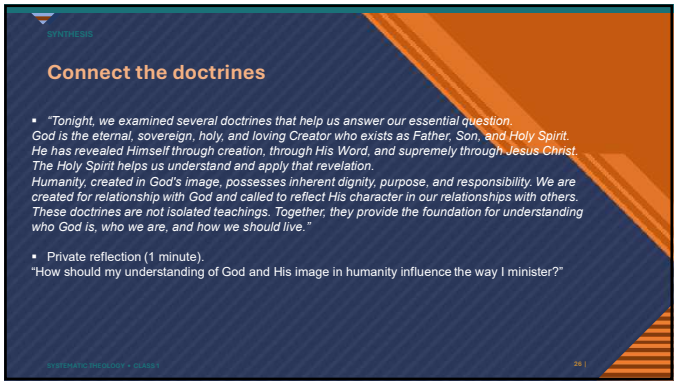
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THEOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
What does it mean to be human?
SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:26–27; Psalm 8; James 3:9
HISTORY: Christian traditions affirm human dignity as image-bearers, while debating implications.
Human Beings were created:
In the image of God
For relationship with God
With spiritual, moral and eternal capacity (we are moral and created for eternal existence)
TODAY: How should the image of God shape our treatment of the vulnerable, excluded, and different?
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY • CLASS 1
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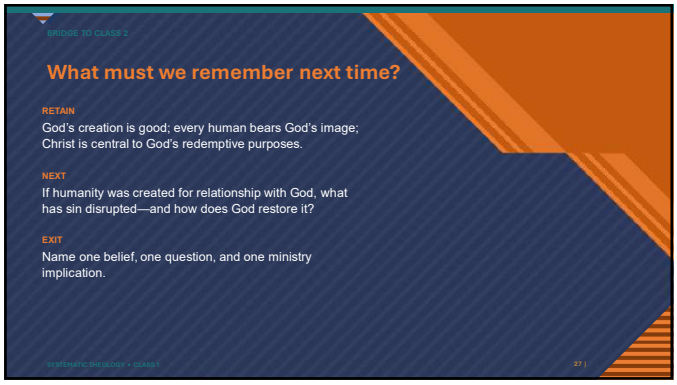
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Essential Question for today's class:
Who is God, How Has He Revealed Himself, and what does it Mean to be Created in His Image?
25 |

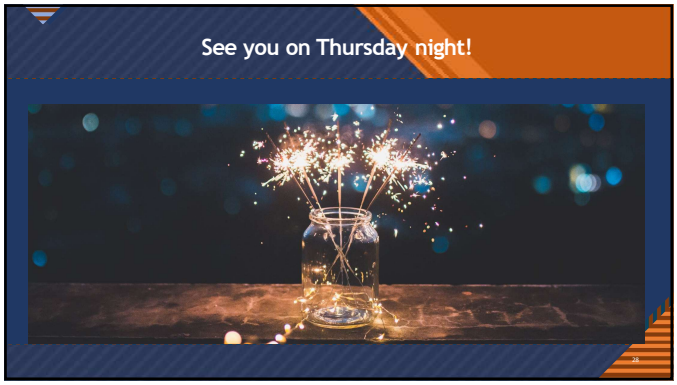
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SYNTHESIS
Connect the doctrines
"Tonight, we examined several doctrines that help us answer our essential question.
God is the eternal, sovereign, holy, and loving Creator who exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
He has revealed Himself through creation, through His Word, and supremely through Jesus Christ.
The Holy Spirit helps us understand and apply that revelation.
Humanity, created in God's image, possesses inherent dignity, purpose, and responsibility. We are created for relationship with God and called to reflect His character in our relationships with others.
These doctrines are not isolated teachings. Together, they provide the foundation for understanding who God is, who we are, and how we should live."
Private reflection (1 minute).
"How should my understanding of God and His image in humanity influence the way I minister?"
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY • CLASS 1
26 |

26


BRIDGE TO CLASS 2
What must we remember next time?
RETAIN
God's creation is good; every human bears God's image; Christ is central to God's redemptive purposes.
NEXT
If humanity was created for relationship with God, what has sin disrupted—and how does God restore it?
EXIT
Name one belief, one question, and one ministry implication.
SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY • CLASS 1
27 |

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