Systematic Theology

Understanding the Major Doctrines of the Bible

Zoom Class Norms & Expectations

Time: We will start and end on time. Each class is limited to two hours.

Questions: Please post questions in the chat. Unanswered questions will be added to an FAQ, and common questions will be reviewed during the first 15 minutes of the next class.

Responses: Please limit responses to 1–3 minutes so everyone has an opportunity to participate.

Engagement: Come prepared to think critically, share perspectives, and connect Scripture to Christian life and ministry.

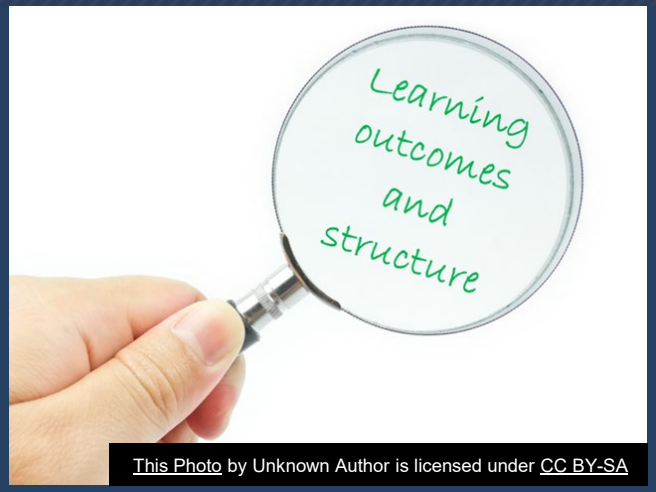
Respect: We may have different perspectives. Listen respectfully and support your understanding with Scripture.

Our Goal: To deepen our theological understanding and apply what we learn to life and ministry.

Humanity, Sin, Salvation & the Church

God's Redemptive Work and the Believer's Life

Essential Question: What does Grace change?



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Distinguish grace, justification, regeneration, and sanctification.

Apply the manual's teaching on Spirit baptism, healing, prayer, and worship

Explain the relationship among humanity, sin, salvation, and the Church

01	**Humanity (Anthropology)**	Who are we, and what does it mean to be made in God's image?
02	**Sin (Hamartiology)**	What has gone wrong with humanity's relationship with God?
03	**Salvation (Soteriology)**	How does God restore us through Jesus Christ?
04	**The Church (Ecclesiology)**	How does the redeemed community live out its calling?
05	**The Spirit, Healing, Prayer, and Worship**	How does the Church experience God's presence and participate in God's work?

How we will engage

- Keep questions in the Zoom chat; unresolved questions go to a FAQ.
- Spoken contributions: approximately 1–2 minutes.
- Use Scripture, theological reasoning, and ministry application.

The doctrinal progression

- Humanity bears God’s image and has purpose.
- Sin corrupts human nature and relationships.
- Salvation is God’s gracious work through Christ.
- The Church embodies and proclaims the gospel.

Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8–10; Acts 2:42

Anthropology: the study of humanity

- Humans are made in the image of God.
  - ❖ Genesis 1:26 “Let us make humankind in our image (Tselem), according to our likeness (Demut)”

- Created for relationship with God, with moral and spiritual responsibility, and stewardship.

- The manual describes humanity as spirit, soul, and body.

Manual p. 9 • Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Imago Dei

- Human Dignity: Every person possesses inherent worth because they are created in God's image.
- Relationship: Human beings are created with the capacity to know God and relate to Him and others.
- Moral Responsibility: Humans are accountable for their choices and actions
- Stewardship: Humanity is entrusted with responsibility for God's creation.
- Equality: All people, regardless of race, gender, ability, or social standing, bear God's image.
- A question:
    - *"If every human being bears the image of God, how should that truth influence the way Christians treat people whose beliefs, behaviors, or circumstances differ from their own?"*



Human dignity and the Fall

- Every human life has value because humanity bears God’s image.
- The Fall introduced spiritual death, separation from God, corruption, and suffering.

  “Humanity became spiritually broken and incapable of saving itself”
- Ministry implication: affirm dignity while addressing the need for redemption.

Manual pp. 9–10 • Romans 5:12

Hamartiology: the study of sin

- Sin is rebellion against God’s law, nature, and authority.

  “Sin is any failure to conform to the moral Law of God in act, attitude or nature.” (Grudem, 2020)

- Its effects extend to the mind, emotions, will, society, and creation.

- Sin makes salvation necessary; it is more than isolated mistakes.

Manual pp. 10–11 • 1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:2

Hamartiology: the study of sin

From the Garden to the Cross

GOD'S REDEMPTIVE PLAN

Genesis 3:21 — Sin enters humanity's experience; God provides a covering.

Leviticus 17:11 — Blood becomes central to the sacrificial system of atonement.

John 1:29 — Jesus is identified as the Lamb of God.

Hebrew 10:10 — Christ offers himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin.

A question for ministry

- How do we hold together human dignity and the reality of sin?
- Consider a person who has harmed others but seeks restoration.
- What does a truthful and compassionate pastoral response require?

Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23

Soteriology: the study of salvation

- Salvation is God’s gracious rescue from sin through Jesus Christ.
- It rests on Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.
- Salvation is received by grace through faith—not earned by works.

Manual p. 11 • Ephesians 2:8–9; Romans 10:9

Seven Key Concepts in Soteriology

Theological Term	Definition	Simply Stated	Key Scripture
Redemption	Deliverance from bondage to sin through the saving work of Jesus Christ.	Christ sets us free.	Ephesians 1:7
Justification	God's declaration that a sinner is righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, not through personal merit.	God declares us righteous.	Romans 5:1
Regeneration	The work of the Holy Spirit through which a person receives new spiritual life. Often described as being born again.	God gives us new life.	John 3:3–8; Titus 3:5
Reconciliation	The restoration of the relationship between God and humanity through Jesus Christ.	God brings us back into relationship with Him.	2 Corinthians 5:18–19
Adoption	God's gracious act of receiving believers into His family as His children, with the privileges and inheritance that accompany that relationship.	God welcomes us into His family.	Romans 8:15–17
Sanctification	The work of God in believers through which they are set apart for Him and increasingly transformed in holiness and Christlike character.	God continues to change us.	1 Thessalonians 4:3; 2 Corinthians 3:18
Glorification	The final completion of salvation when believers are fully transformed into Christ's likeness and freed from sin and death.	God completes our transformation.	Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 15:42–53
Soteriology teaches believers how God transforms sinners into sons and daughters of God			

Manual pp. 11–12 • Romans 5:1; John 3:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Romans 8:30

Grace and law

- The law reveals sin; it does not remove sin.
- Grace is God’s unearned favor and divine empowerment.
- Grace is not permission to sin; it teaches us to live godly lives.

Manual p. 12 • Romans 3:20; Romans 6:14; Titus 2:11–12

Law vs. Grace: Theological Comparison

Aspect	Law (Torah)	Grace (Charis)
Meaning	God's instruction, commandments, and covenant expectations	God's freely given favor and saving kindness
Purpose	Reveals God's holiness and guides righteous living	Provides salvation and empowers transformation
Relationship to sin	Identifies sin and exposes humanity's need for redemption	Offers forgiveness and deliverance through Christ
Basis of salvation	Obedience to the Law cannot earn justification	Salvation is received through grace by faith
Human responsibility	Calls for obedience to God's commands	Produces a response of faith, gratitude, and obedience
Biblical emphasis	Exodus 20; Romans 3:20	Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 2:11–12
Relationship to Christ	Christ fulfills the Law (Matthew 5:17)	Grace is revealed decisively through Jesus Christ (John 1:17)

A cultural lens: Amazing Grace

- Consider the hymn’s movement from being lost to being found.
- Ask what changes in standing before God—and what changes in living.
- Avoid treating transformation as the price paid to receive grace.

Ephesians 2:8–10; 2 Corinthians 5:17

TURN & TALK • What does grace change? (Optional)

- 1 min: reflect silently on a change grace makes possible.
- 3 min: discuss in pairs or triads on Zoom.
- 2 min: each group posts one sentence in chat.
- 2 min: facilitator synthesizes without room-by-room reports.

Titus 2:11–12; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Debrief: grace and transformation

- Grace changes our relationship to God.
- Grace forms our character, relationships, and obedience.
- Good works follow salvation; they do not purchase it.

Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 2:11–14

Ecclesiology: the study of the Church

- The Church is Christ’s body—not merely a building or denomination.
- Its mission includes worship, gospel proclamation, discipleship, equipping, and service.
- The Church is a spiritual family empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Manual p. 13 • Ephesians 1:22–23; Matthew 28:19–20

The Church in practice

- Acts 2:42 emphasizes doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers.
- A healthy church forms disciples rather than simply gathering attendees.
- Ministry check: do our practices embody the gospel we proclaim?

“The Church is called to reflect Christ in both power and holiness”

Manual p. 13 • Acts 2:42

Seven Essential Components of Ecclesiology

Component	Definition / Purpose	Biblical Foundation
1. Church Leadership	Providing spiritual oversight, teaching, equipping, and accountability within the congregation.	Ephesians 4:11–13; 1 Peter 5:2–3
2. Ordinances	Sacred practices instituted by Christ that express faith, obedience, and identification with Him. Commonly identified in Protestant churches as baptism and the Lord's Supper.	Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
3. Spiritual Gifts	Abilities given by the Holy Spirit to believers for serving others and building up the Church.	1 Corinthians 12:4–11; Romans 12:6–8
4. Church Discipline	The biblical process of addressing sin within the congregation, seeking repentance, accountability, and restoration.	Matthew 18:15–17; Galatians 6:1
5. Fellowship	The shared spiritual life of believers expressed through worship, relationships, mutual care, and encouragement.	Acts 2:42–47; Hebrews 10:24–25
6. Missions	The Church's responsibility to proclaim the gospel, make disciples, and demonstrate Christ's love locally and globally.	Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8
7. Worship	The Church's response to God through praise, prayer, Scripture, obedience, and a life devoted to His glory.	John 4:23–24; Romans 12:1

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- The manual teaches a distinct empowering experience in the Spirit.
- Its purposes include holy living, bold witness, spiritual gifts, and ministry.
- The manual notes that it is often accompanied by speaking in tongues.

Manual pp. 13–14 • Acts 2:4; Acts 2:39; Acts 4:31

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Manual pp. 13–14 • Acts 2:4; Acts 2:39; Acts 4:31

The doctrine of healing

- The manual presents God as healer and Jesus as one who heals.
- Healing may be physical, emotional, or spiritual.
- Believers are instructed to pray for the sick.

Manual p. 14 • Exodus 15:26; Matthew 8:16–17; James 5:14–15

Pastoral application: prayer for healing

- A congregant remains ill despite prayer.
- How can we pray faithfully, demonstrate compassion, and avoid blaming the sufferer?
- The manual establishes the call to pray; it does not specify outcomes for every case.

James 5:14–15; Manual p. 14

The doctrine of prayer

- Prayer is communion and partnership with God, not only asking for things.
- It includes adoration, confession, thanksgiving, intercession, petition, and spiritual warfare.
- Prayer is offered in faith, in Jesus' name, and according to God's will.

Manual pp. 16–17 • Matthew 6:9–13; Romans 8:26–27

The doctrine of worship

- Worship responds to God with love, reverence, surrender, and obedience.
- It is more than music: a life offered to God.
- Biblical expressions include praise, giving, service, silence, and prayer.

Manual pp. 17–18 • John 4:23–24; Romans 12:1–2

Ministry reflection: worship or performance?

- How do we distinguish skillful presentation from worship in spirit and truth?
- What would change in the way we plan and lead services?
- Post one concise observation in chat.

John 4:23–24; Romans 12:1–2

Bring the doctrines together

- Image-bearing humanity needs redemption from sin.
- Grace saves and transforms; the Church disciples and serves.
- The Spirit empowers; healing, prayer, and worship express dependence on God.

Manual pp. 9–18

Closing: what does grace change?

- Complete: “Because of grace, I will…”
- The goal of theology is not merely information. The goal is transformation.
- Preview: angels, spiritual warfare, death, and the last things.

Manual p. 23 • Colossians 2:6–7

Essential Question: What does Grace change?