

6. Church (Ecclesiology), Mission (Missiology), and Spiritual Warfare

Biblical and Systematic Theology, Harpeth Christian Church

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Introduction

- From Christology to...
- Ecclesiology
- Missiology

Ecclesiology

- Unity of the church:
 - John 17:11, 20–23: “Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.” “20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
 - Collected: John 10:14 I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.
 - Connected: John 15:4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.
 - Protected:
 - John 10:10–13 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

- John 17:11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name—the name you gave me—so that they may be one as we are one.
- One another passages: Intro
 - Why do some churches feel disjointed? While various reasons exist for disunity in a church, it often has to do with the church’s lack of commitment to one another. In Chapter 9 of The Revolutionary Disciple, “Embracing God’s Church,” we mentioned that one of the most revolutionary acts a disciple can do is commit to a particular church—over the long haul.
 - This sort of commitment stems from a conviction that comes from understanding the heart of God about how we treat “one another.” The Greek New Testament mentions the word that we translate “one another” (ESV) one hundred times: a total of forty-four of these are commands, which appear in thirty-six passages.
 - The following thirty-six passages, then, contain these forty-four “one another” commands that can help us understand God’s heart and foster commitment to one another as disciples of Jesus.
- 10 one another passages (see download)
 1. Rom. 12:10: Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.
 2. Rom. 12:16: Live in harmony with one another.
 3. Rom. 14:13: Decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.
 4. Rom. 15:5: Live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus...
 5. Rom. 15:7: Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you
 6. Rom. 16:16: Greet one another with a holy kiss.
 7. 1 Cor. 12:25: That there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.
 8. Gal. 5:13: For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
 9. Eph. 4:2: With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.
 10. Eph. 4:32: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
- Identify of the church:
 - Temple:
 - 1 Cor 3:9–11 For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building. 10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.
 - Body:

- 1 Cor 11:29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.
- 1 Cor 12:12–13 12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
- Eph 4:16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
- Eph 3:6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.
- Family
 - Eph 3:15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name.
 - Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
- Government of the church, leadership, and organization
- Sacraments:
 1. Baptism: Theology is a commentary on our baptism.
 2. Communion, Lord’s Supper, Eucharist
- One anothers:

Mission

- *Misero Dei*: Mission of God; he is our basis
- Mission of church members: to make disciples and build up the body (Ephesians 4:11–13: “11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”)
- Mission of church together in the world: to seek and save the lost:
 - Israel
 - Matt 15:24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”
 - Matt 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.
 - World

- John 3:16
- Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”
- Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”
 - **Matthew 28:18–20:** What it is and how it is good.
- There’s more to it...

How Christology, ecclesiology, and missiology work together

C -> E -> M

- The Endings of Four Gospels give us the full picture beyond Matthew 28
- ~My thesis is that **The church today is losing ground because, in part, we’ve gotten things mixed up. 1. Lame Party 2. Wounded Body 3. Unhealthy Church**
 - Lame Party. We’re inviting people to a party we don’t really want to be at ourselves. There’s no music, the food’s cold, and it’s just not very enjoyable.
 - Wounded Body. Another analogy is that we’re telling people to find healing but we’ve got a gaping wound on our neck.
 - In the words of Woody Allen, “I don’t want to be a part of a club that accepts a person like me as a member.”
 - Unhealthy. The church is not healthy.
 - And I think the church needs to be healthy, healed, and made whole before we’ll be effective in mission.
 - **A Church-driven Mission**
 - I’m making an argument for a method of mission that’s church-driven, where the health, unity, and vibrance of the church leads to missional success.
- ~John 21 reveals something at the core of Christ’s heart that we see elsewhere in the Gospels: this methodological reordering.
- 1. The ordering of Christology / missiology / ecclesiology in the Gospels
 - **Christology —> Ecclesiology —> Missiology In the Gospels**
 - It’s like when Jesus said to the Canaanite woman in _ Matthew 15:24, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”_ It’s not that he didn’t care about the nations; it’s that he knew Israel was the key to unlocking the salvation of the world.
 - **[Christology —> Ecclesiology —> Missiology Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth” under it]** We see this throughout Lukan missiology too: they were to reach Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and then the ends of the earth.
- 2. The ordering of Christology / missiology / ecclesiology in Isaiah
 - **Christology —> Ecclesiology —> Missiology In the Gospels**
 - Isaiah is quoted in the NT more than any other prophet.
 - He’s a favorite of Paul’s and John’s in particular.
 - In Isaiah 60–62, we get an insight, believe it or not, into the intersection of missiology and ecclesiology.

- Let me share with just a few verses in the middle, from Isaiah 61, the famous gospel passage. Isaiah has gone over the destruction of God’s people over and over again, and now he speaks of their redemption: __Isaiah 61:3–6: “3 They will be called oaks of righteousness, // a planting of the LORD // for the display of his splendor. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins // and restore the places long devastated; // they will renew the ruined cities // that have been devastated for generations. // 5 Aliens will shepherd your flocks; // foreigners will work your fields and vineyards. // And you will be called priests of the LORD, // you will be named ministers of our God. // You will feed on the wealth of nations, // and in their riches you will boast.”
 - And then later Isaiah 61:11–62:1, “Isa 61:11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up // and a garden causes seeds to grow, // so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise // spring up before all nations. // 62:1 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, // for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, // till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, // her salvation like a blazing torch.” __
3. In the New Testament
- **Christology —> Ecclesiology —> Missiology In the Gospels**
 - The life of Paul: Church planter, disciple-maker; never said in his letters, ‘Go evangelize,’ but “be unified and grow.” N.T. Wright purportedly said the two pillars of Pauline theology, at least in terms of exhortation, are unity and holiness. For example, **Ephesians 5:25–27: “25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”**
 - Peter’s epistles, he emphasized holiness, humility, and maturity for the people of God: “Be holy, therefore, as I am holy”
 - Revelation: The thriving city is the final vision: Where the nations come to the river of God. **Rev 22:1–2 “1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”**

Angels, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare

- Angels can minister to our spirits (like they did to Jesus after fasting, Mark 1:13; and after praying in the Garden of Gethsemani the first time, Luke 22:43)
- Demons can be used as minions of Satan, but cannot possess (as in indwell) a Spirit-filled believer but only be demonized (the Greek word does not mean “possess”)
- Spiritual Warfare: Ephesians 6:10–18

End Times

- Not covered here; in another class. But let’s read the Nicene Creed to end it!

Not covered in this class but elsewhere:

- End times, second coming, and final judgement
- Mission of the church
- Disciple making
- Heaven and Hell: Paradise, Heaven; Sheol, Hades, and Hell
- New heaven and new earth