

Week 10 Protestant Orthodoxy

1. Overview

- 1) Protestant Orthodoxy refers to the theological movement that developed after the Reformation, focusing on systematizing and defending the doctrines of the Reformers.
 - 2) It is marked by doctrinal precision and logical structure.
-

2. Historical Background

- 1) Doctrinal conflicts after the Reformation
 - 2) Continued debates with the Roman Catholic Church
 - 3) Need for internal doctrinal clarity
 - 4) Rise of systematic theology in the 17th century
 - 5) Key Figures:
 - (1) Martin Luther
 - (2) John Calvin
 - (3) Francis Turretin
-

3. Key Characteristics

1) Systematization of Doctrine

- (1) Development of structured theology
- (2) Growth of systematic theology

2) Authority of Scripture

- (1) Emphasis on biblical inerrancy
- (2) Scripture as ultimate authority

3) Scholastic Method

- (1) Use of logical reasoning and debate
- (2) Adoption of medieval scholastic tools

4) Confessional Development

- (1) Creation of confessions (e.g., Westminster Confession)
 - (2) Establishment of doctrinal standards
-

4. Major Theological Debates

1) Predestination

- (1) Emphasis on God's sovereignty

(2) Systematic development of election

2) Free Will

Human depravity and need for grace

3) Sacraments

Debates on the nature of the Lord's Supper

5. Theological Significance

- 1) Preservation of Reformation theology
 - 2) Establishment of doctrinal identity
 - 3) Foundation for modern systematic theology
-

6. Limitations and Criticism

- 1) Over-intellectualization of faith
 - 2) Formalism
 - 3) Weakening of personal spirituality
-

7. Application

- 1) Importance of doctrinal clarity
 - 2) Maintaining biblical faith
 - 3) Balance between doctrine and life
-

8. Discussion Questions

- 1) How does Protestant Orthodoxy differ from the Reformation?
- 2) Does systematizing doctrine strengthen faith?
- 3) What lessons does it offer for today's Church?