

# Week 11 Enlightenment and Liberalism

## 1. Overview

- 1) The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement emphasizing reason and rationality, challenging traditional authorities such as the church and monarchy.
  - 2) It laid the foundation for liberalism, which focuses on individual freedom, rights, and equality.
- 

## 2. Historical Background

- 1) Emerged in 17th–18th century Europe
  - 2) Influenced by the Scientific Revolution
  - 3) Reaction against absolute monarchy and church authority
  - 4) Prelude to modern societal transformation
- 

## 3. Key Thinkers

- 1) John Locke → Natural rights: life, liberty, property
  - 2) Immanuel Kant → “Dare to think for yourself”
  - 3) Jean-Jacques Rousseau → Social contract and general will
- 

## 4. Core Ideas of the Enlightenment

- 1) Rationalism
  - 2) Empiricism and science
  - 3) Critique of religion
  - 4) Belief in human progress
- 

## 5. Development of Liberalism

- 1) Emphasis on individual rights and freedom
  - 2) Growth of democracy and rule of law
  - 3) Expansion of religious tolerance
  - 4) Key Concepts:
    - (1) Individualism
    - (2) Equality
    - (3) Free market
    - (4) Civil rights
- 

## 6. Impact on Theology

- 1) Criticism of supernatural elements in the Bible
- 2) Rise of liberal theology

- 3) Emphasis on human experience over revelation
  - 4) Decline of church authority
- 

### 7. Critical Evaluation (Pauline Perspective)

- 1) Human reason over divine revelation
  - 2) Underestimation of sin
  - 3) Denial of supernatural salvation
    - ➔ Pauline theology is grounded in divine grace and revelation, not human reason.
- 

### 8. Discussion Questions

- 1) What positive and negative impacts did the Enlightenment have on faith?
  - 2) How did liberal theology transform the gospel?
  - 3) Can Enlightenment thought coexist with Pauline theology?
- 

### 9. Conclusion

- 1) The Enlightenment and liberalism profoundly shaped modern society and theology, but also introduced elements that weaken the essence of the gospel.
- 2) A biblical re-evaluation is necessary.