

Week 14 The Modern Church and New Testament Theology

1. The Current State of the Modern Church

1) Division of Denominations:

The one Gospel has been fragmented into numerous denominations and sects.

2) Spread of Other Gospels:

Prosperity gospel, psychological gospel, and secularized church growth models have diluted the essence of theology.

3) Weakening of Biblical Authority:

Human-centered and culture-centered interpretations have undermined the absolute authority of Scripture.

4) Ethical and Moral Corruption:

Moral failures among church leaders and a decline in the church's social credibility.

5) Pragmatization of Theology:

Practicality and church growth have been emphasized more than deep theological reflection.

2. The Essence of New Testament Theology

1) The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ:

The core of New Testament theology is the atoning death and resurrection of Jesus.

2) The Kingdom of God:

The central message proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles (Matt 4:17; Acts 1:3).

3) Salvation by Grace:

Salvation comes through faith, not through the law (Eph 2:8–9; Rom 3:28).

4) The Work of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit leads the Church and the believer's life(John14–16;1Cor 12)

5) The Identity of the Church:

The Church is the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27) and the light and salt of the world (Matt 5:13–16).

3. Diagnosis of the Modern Church's Problems through New Testament Theology

<u>Problem in the Modern Church</u>	<u>Answer from New Testament Theology</u>
Secularization, growth-centered ministry	Restoration of Kingdom-centered theology (Matt 6:33)
Human-centered gospel	Reaffirmation of the cross-centered gospel (1 Cor 1:18)
Pragmatization of theology	Emphasis on sound doctrine and truth (2 Tim 4:2–4)
Ethical and moral corruption	Restoration of a holy life through the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23)
Division of denominations	Unity in the Gospel (Eph 4:4–6)

4. The Tasks of New Testament Theology for the Modern Church

1) Restoration of the Essence of the Gospel:

Proclaiming the cross and resurrection centered gospel of Jesus Christ.

2) Restoration of the Biblical Community:

Emphasizing apostolic teaching, fellowship, prayer, and the Lord's Supper as in the early church (Acts 2:42–47).

3) Church Sensitive to the Leading of the Holy Spirit:

A church that moves according to the work of the Spirit rather than programs (John 3:8).

4) Testimony to the World:

Being the salt and light of the world, bearing witness to the truth in society (Matt 5:13–16).

5) Strengthening Biblical Theological Education:

Reinforcing Bible-centered and gospel-centered theological education in seminaries and pastoral training.

Summary

- 1) The problems facing the modern church can ultimately only be healed by returning to the essence of New Testament theology.

2) The church must be reformed around the Gospel, the Kingdom of God, salvation by grace, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the mission of the Church.