



Systematic Theology

A row of white classical columns receding into the distance under a bright sky. The columns are fluted and have decorative capitals. The perspective is from a low angle, looking down the length of the colonnade.

Systematic Theology

Session 8: Heresy

Part 2

A perspective view of a long, receding row of classical columns. The columns are light-colored, possibly white or light blue, and feature a Greek key (meander) pattern on their bases. They are set against a bright, overexposed sky, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. The word "INTRODUCTION" is overlaid in a bold, dark blue serif font across the middle of the image.

INTRODUCTION

A decorative background on the left side of the page featuring several classical columns with ornate capitals and bases, set against a light, airy background.

1 Corinthians 10:6-12

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.




1 Corinthians 10:6-12

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

A row of classical columns, possibly Corinthian or Ionic, receding into the distance. The columns are light-colored and feature decorative capitals and bases. The scene is brightly lit, with long shadows cast on the ground. The background is a clear, bright sky.

HERESY IN THE OT




THE GOLDEN CALF

- Israel grew discontent and impatient while waiting for God to speak through Moses
- The people pressured Aaron to provide an alternative God to YHWH



2 Timothy 4:3-4

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate *for themselves* teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

The image features a decorative background on the left side, consisting of several classical columns with ornate capitals and bases. The columns are light-colored, possibly white or light blue, and are set against a bright, slightly blurred background. The main content of the image is a list of bullet points on the right side, which is set against a plain white background.

THE GOLDEN CALF

- Israel grew discontent and impatient while waiting for God to speak through Moses
- The people pressured Aaron to provide an alternative God to YHWH
- Aaron fashioned a golden calf with his own hands and placed it before the people
- Aaron pointed to this calf that he had made as YHWH



THE GOLDEN CALF

- Aaron called upon Israel to worship YHWH in the form he had made
- The people's worship of the Golden Calf indulged their fleshly desires
- This heretical teaching by Aaron incited God's wrath.



LESSONS FROM THE GOLDEN CALF

- Heresy often develops when leaders seek to please men rather than God.
- Heresy can develop among respected leaders
- Heresy does not denounce God, it just adjusts Him
- Heresy, because it is man-centered, allows and often encourages fleshly indulgence
- Heresy provokes God's wrath

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STRANGE FIRE

- This incident in Israel's history is not described in detail but it concerns those who were tasked with leading Israel in their worship of and relationship with YHWH
- Nadab and Abihu were conducting their duties as prescribed in scripture
- However, they decided to adjust their duties and offered strange fire, doing something that God had not commanded.
- God's wrath immediately consumed them



LESSONS FROM STRANGE FIRE

- Again, heresy creeps in among God's people through respectable individuals
- Heresy adds man's ideas to God's ideas.
- Heresy ignores God's commands
- Heresy brings God's wrath.



SYNCRETISM

- Throughout Israel's history, there was a constant pull to be like the nations around them
- Israel's elders come to Ezekiel and want to inquire of the Lord, but God will not answer them because they have desired to be like the nations around them (Ezekiel 20:32)



Ezekiel 20:32

What is in your mind shall never happen—the thought, ‘Let us be like the nations, like the tribes of the countries, and worship wood and stone.’

SYNCRETISM

- This eventually led to the worship of other God's alongside worship to YHWH. (1 Samuel 7:3-4)



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1 Samuel 7:3-4

And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.



SYNCRETISM

- This eventually led to the worship of other God's alongside worship to YHWH. (1 Samuel 7:3-4)
- This syncretistic attitude eventually led to “showdowns” between YHWH and other gods
- God poured out his wrath on those who taught that He could be worshiped along side other gods.



LESSONS FROM SYNCRETISM

- The desire to be like and worship like the world is constantly enticing God's people
- God alone is to be worshipped, therefore, the elevation of ANYTHING to a similar status is heresy
- This heresy persists today among God's people
- This heresy brings wrath.

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HERESY IN THE NT



LEGALISM

(The Judaizers)

- As the gospel spread in the NT church, its primary growth began among the Jews
- There quickly arose a group of Jewish believers from within the church that sought to assert Jewish rituals and requirements on the entire church

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Acts 15:24

Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,



LEGALISM

(The Judaizers)

- They asserted that if these extra-biblical requirements were not obeyed by all believers, then they were either not true believers or they were no longer be believers.
- The apostles vehemently denied that one's standing before God was based in anyway upon their performance of the law or any other standard (Acts 15; Philippians 3:2-10)



LESSONS FROM LEGALISM

- This heresy of a performance-based relationship with God plagues the church (Gal. 5:8)



Galatians 5:8

This persuasion is not
from him who calls you.



LESSONS FROM LEGALISM

- This heresy of a performance-based relationship with God plagues the church (Gal. 5:8)
- This heresy is subtle and cunning as it uses scripture to demand performance
- This heresy is denounced by the apostles in the strongest of terms (Gal. 5:12)



Galatians 5:12

I wish those who unsettle you
would emasculate themselves!



LESSONS FROM LEGALISM

- This heresy of a performance-based relationship with God plagues the church (Gal. 5:8)
- This heresy is subtle and cunning as it uses scripture to demand performance
- This heresy is denounced by the apostles in the strongest of terms (Gal. 5:12)
- This heresy separates one from Christ (Galatians 5:1-4)

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Galatians 5:1-4

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

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ANTINOMIANISM

(The Nicolaitans)

- While legalism is renounced in the strongest of terms, a second heresy quickly replaced it.
- This heresy cast off all requirements for holy living and said that God's law no longer applies to believers at all.
- This teaching was typified by sinful, fleshly indulgence (1 Cor. 6:15-19).
- It also was apparently the particular teaching of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:6, 15-16)



Revelation 2:6, 15-16

Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.



LESSONS FROM ANTINOMIANISM

- Heresy arises from within the church
- Heresy often feeds the flesh and gives permission to sin
- Heresy can sound practical
- Heresy brings God's wrath



CHRISTOLOGICAL HERESIES

- The beginning seeds of heresy that will plague the church for centuries can be seen in the New Testament
- We find the very beginnings of false teaching regarding Jesus beginning to grow in the later epistles.
- John addresses heresy regarding the physical incarnation of Jesus (1 John 4:1-5; 2 John 7-11)



1 John 4:1-5

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them.



2 John 7-11

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward. Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.



LESSONS FROM CHRISTOLOGICAL HERESIES

- Much heresy will center around the person of Christ
- Heresy about Christ will be compelling
- Our understanding of Christ matters
- We must have **NOTHING** to do with heresy.



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