



# Basic Theology

Class 1

# Gene's Introduction



# 1. Concepts & Definitions

- I. Welcome!
- II. Prepare for each class; text = *Ryrie*
- III. Stretch yourself – especially in terms of vocabulary
- IV. Write down your questions
- V. Take advantage of my office hours
- VI. CDs & PowerPoint presentations will be posted on the website ASAP
- VII. There are *no* shortcuts to excellence!

# Section I: Prolegomena



# **Chapter 1: Concepts & Definitions**



# 1. Concepts & Definitions

## I. The Concept of Theology

# What is Theology?

**THEOS + LOGOS**

↓  
God

↓  
A Word;  
A Rational  
Expression

*THEOLOGY = A Word About God; A  
Rational Expression of the Christian  
Faith; The Study of God*

# 1. Concepts & Definitions

## I. The Concept of Theology

A. Theology is intelligible.

B. Theology requires explanation.

C. Theology will be a Bible-based study:

1. The Bible is our Authority.

2. The Bible is the source of our faith.

3. *Theology is the discovery, systematizing, and presentation of the truths about God.*

# 1. Concepts & Definitions

## II. The Varieties of Theology

# 1. Concepts & Definitions

## II. The Varieties of Theology

A. By era: patristic, medieval, reformation, modern, etc.

# General Periods of Church History

The Apostolic Period: 35-120

The Apologists: 120-220

The Third Century: 220-305

The Imperial Church: 305-476

The Early Middle Ages: 476-999

The High Middle Ages: 1000-1299

The Late Middle Ages: 1300-1499

 The Reformation: 1500-1599

The Puritans: 1600-1699

The Great Awakening: 1700-1799

The 2nd Great Awakening: 1800-1899

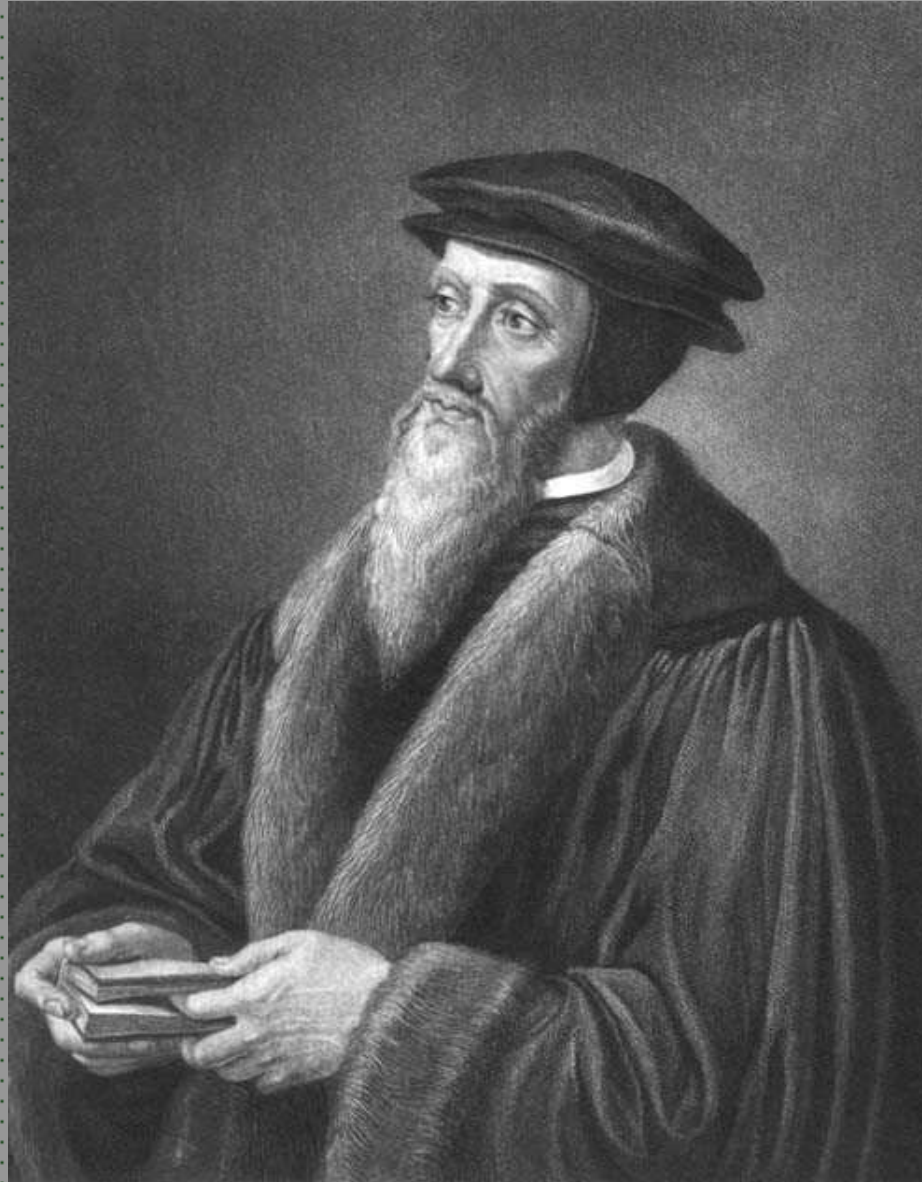
The Modern Period: 1900-Present

# 1. Concepts & Definitions

## II. The Varieties of Theology

- A. By era: patristic, medieval, reformation, modern, etc.
- B. By viewpoint: Calvinistic, Arminian, Catholic, Barthian, liberation.

# John Calvin (1509-1564)



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According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, John Calvin is “undoubtedly the greatest of Protestant divines, and perhaps, after St. Augustine, the most perseveringly followed by his disciples of any Western writer on theology.”

Source: [www.newadvent.org/cathen/03195b.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03195b.htm)

# Jacobus Arminius (1559-1609)

✓ Those articles were condemned by the Synod of Dordt in 1619.

✓ The synod's five-point reply was an article-by-article refutation of the Remonstrants.

✓ The position defined by the Synod came to be known as "the five points of Calvinism," though the five points were actually a response to the Arminian Articles. Calvin himself never systematized his doctrine into five points.



Arminius



**Never The Two Shall Meet**

John Calvin



# 1. Concepts & Definitions

## II. The Varieties of Theology

- A. By era: patristic, medieval, reformation, modern, etc.
- B. By viewpoint: Calvinistic, Arminian, Catholic, Barthian, liberation.
- C. Focus: historical, biblical, systematic, apologetic, exegetical.

# A. Historical Theology

1. Historical Theology focuses on what those who studied the Bible in the past thought about its teachings, either individually or collectively as in the pronouncements of church councils.
2. We could call this the “history of theology.”

## B. Biblical Theology

1. Biblical Theology focuses upon how theology unfolds as the Bible story moves forward – *Genesis to Revelation*.
2. Note sub-point #3, p.14: “Biblical theology studies revelation in the progressive sequence in which it was given.

## C. Systematic Theology

1. Systematic Theology gathers all of the biblical information on any one theme and considers it as a category.
2. To find out what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, a theologian must consider *every passage* that deals with the Holy Spirit and develop a “system” of understanding that deals honestly with *every passage*.

# Extra: Other Kinds of Theology

## I. Legitimate

- A. Practical Theology
- B. Pastoral Theology

## II. Illegitimate

- A. Liberation Theology
- B. “Kingdom Now” Theology

# Chapter 2: Presuppositions

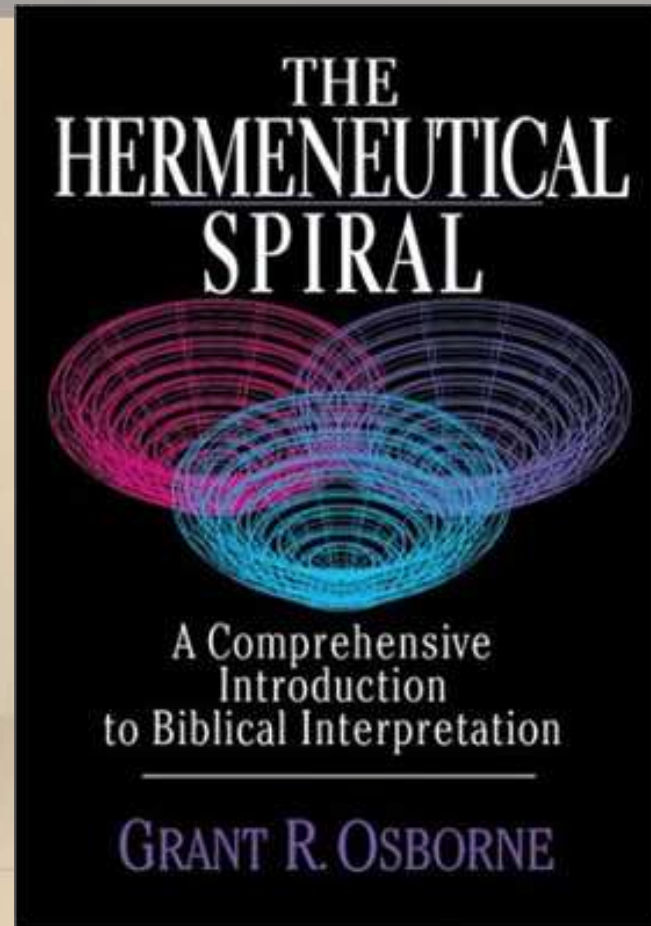


## 2. Presuppositions

- I. The Basic One: God Exists
- II. The Interpretive Ones
  - A. Normal, Plain Interpretations

# Normal, Plain Interpretations

“The Sacred  
Author’s intended  
meaning is the  
critical starting  
point . . .”  
(Osbourne, p.6)



## 2. Presuppositions

I. The Basic One: God Exists

II. The Interpretive Ones

A. Normal, Plain Interpretations

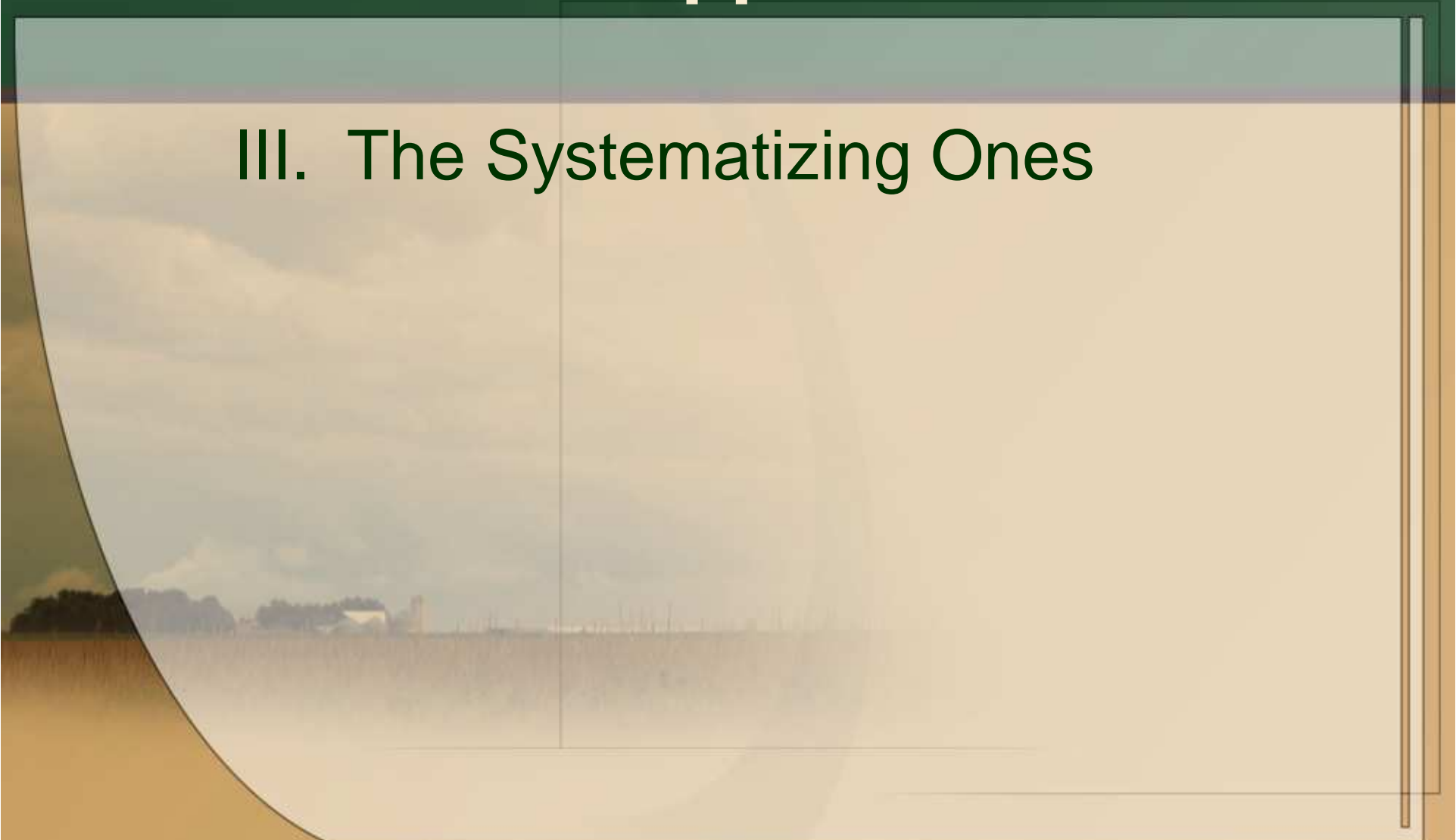
B. Priority of the New Testament

C. Legitimacy of Proof Texts

† John 3:17: “For God did not send the Son into the world . . .”

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones



## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

#### A. Necessity of a System

*We Need A System.  
The Theologian's  
Goal is to Systemize  
Truth about God.*

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

A. Necessity of a System

B. Limitations of a Theological System

Beware of Filling in  
the Gaps! Logic Must  
Never Be Allowed to  
*Create Truth!*

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

A. Necessity of a System

B. Limitations of a Theological System

### IV. The Personal Ones

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

A. Necessity of a System

B. Limitations of a Theological System

### IV. The Personal Ones

A. Must Believe

1 Corinthians 1:18

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

A. Necessity of a System

B. Limitations of a Theological System

### IV. The Personal Ones

A. Must Believe

B. Must Think

Isaiah 1:18

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

A. Necessity of a System

B. Limitations of a Theological System

### IV. The Personal Ones

A. Must Believe

B. Must Think

C. Must Depend

John 16:12-13

## 2. Presuppositions

### III. The Systematizing Ones

A. Necessity of a System

B. Limitations of a Theological System

### IV. The Personal Ones

A. Must Believe

1 Corinthians 1:18

B. Must Think

Isaiah 1:18

C. Must Depend

John 16:12-13

D. Must Worship

John 4:24

**End**

