

Basic Theologies

Explanation

The teachings propagated among Christians in the first generation after Christ derived largely from Peter, John, and Paul. Through examination of the surviving writings of these three apostles, much of the nature of early Christian theology can be ascertained. Most prominent were teachings about Christ, testimonies of his divine sonship, and declarations of his atoning mission. Other teachings can be categorized as basic doctrines and as practices of the early Christian community. The three charts that follow highlight various teachings about Christ as well as Christian doctrines and Christian practices as articulated in the writings of Peter (chart 12-4), John (chart 12-5), and Paul (chart 12-6). Taken together these charts show that these three major spokesmen addressed similar subjects in similar ways. For example, John is often thought of as the apostle of love. However, Peter and Paul also spoke about this important subject, often using the same vocabulary or phraseology. How does one explain the commonalities? Most obviously, these apostles derived their teachings from Jesus Christ as their common source.

References

- John F. Hall, "Peter," *EM*, 3:1077–79.
Raymond Brown, trans., *The Gospel According to John* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1966–70).
Richard Lloyd Anderson, *Understanding Paul* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1983).
"Paul's Teachings," *WRC*, 102–5.

Paul's Basic Theology

TEACHINGS ABOUT CHRIST

Belief in Christ essential	Rom 1:16; 3:26; Gal 3:22; Eph 1:13, 19; Phlp 1:29
Christ as Creator	Eph 3:9; Col 1:16; 3:10; Heb 1:2; 11:3
Atonement of Christ	Rom 3:25; 2Cor 5:18; Eph 2:16; Heb 5:9; 9:28
Resurrected Christ	Rom 6:9; 1Cor 15:5–8; 2Tm 2:8
Christ's second coming	1Cor 15:23; 1Th 4:16; 2Th 1:7; 2:8

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES

Apostasy	1Cor 11:18; Gal 1:6; 2Th 2:1–12
Latter-day restoration	Rom 11:25; Eph 1:10; 2Tm 3:1
Baptism for the dead	1Cor 15:29
Fulfillment of Mosaic law	Rom 3:21; 6:14; 7:4; 10:4; Gal 2:21; 3:2, 13, 24; 5:18; Heb 8:13
Godhead	2 Cor 4:4; Eph 3:14; Col 1:15; Heb 1:2
Kingdoms of glory	1Cor 15:40; 2Cor 2:12
Revelation in church	1Cor 12:3; 14:6; 2Cor 12:1; Gal 1:12; Eph 1:17
Apostolic foundation	Eph 2:20; 4:11

CHRISTIAN PRACTICES

Faith, key to redemption	Rom 3:25–28; 1Cor 12:9; 13:13; 15:14; 16:13; Gal 2:20; 3:26; Eph 2:8; Heb 6:12
Baptism	Rom 6:4; Col 2:12; Titus 3:5
Personal revelation	Rom 1:4; 8:1–27; 1Cor 2:4, 10–12; 6:11; 12:1–13; 3:6; Gal 3:2, 14; 5:5, 25; Eph 2:18; 5:18; Phlp 2:1; 1Th 5:19
Love, charity	Rom 13:8–10; 1Cor 8:1; 13:1–13; 2Cor 6:6; Gal 5:6, 13–14, 22; Eph 3:17, 19; Col 2:2; 1Th 3:12