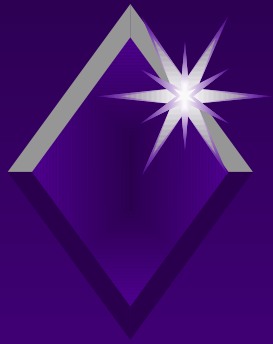




G. Dealing with Technical Terms

of Systematic Theology
and Biblical Theology



What about Technical Terms?

Technical terms are useful

But

biblical
word

≠

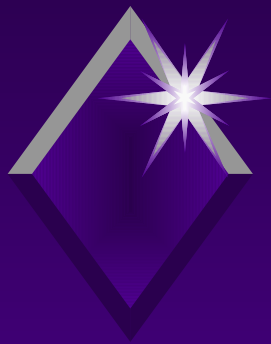
technical term
in theology

flexible,
range of meaning

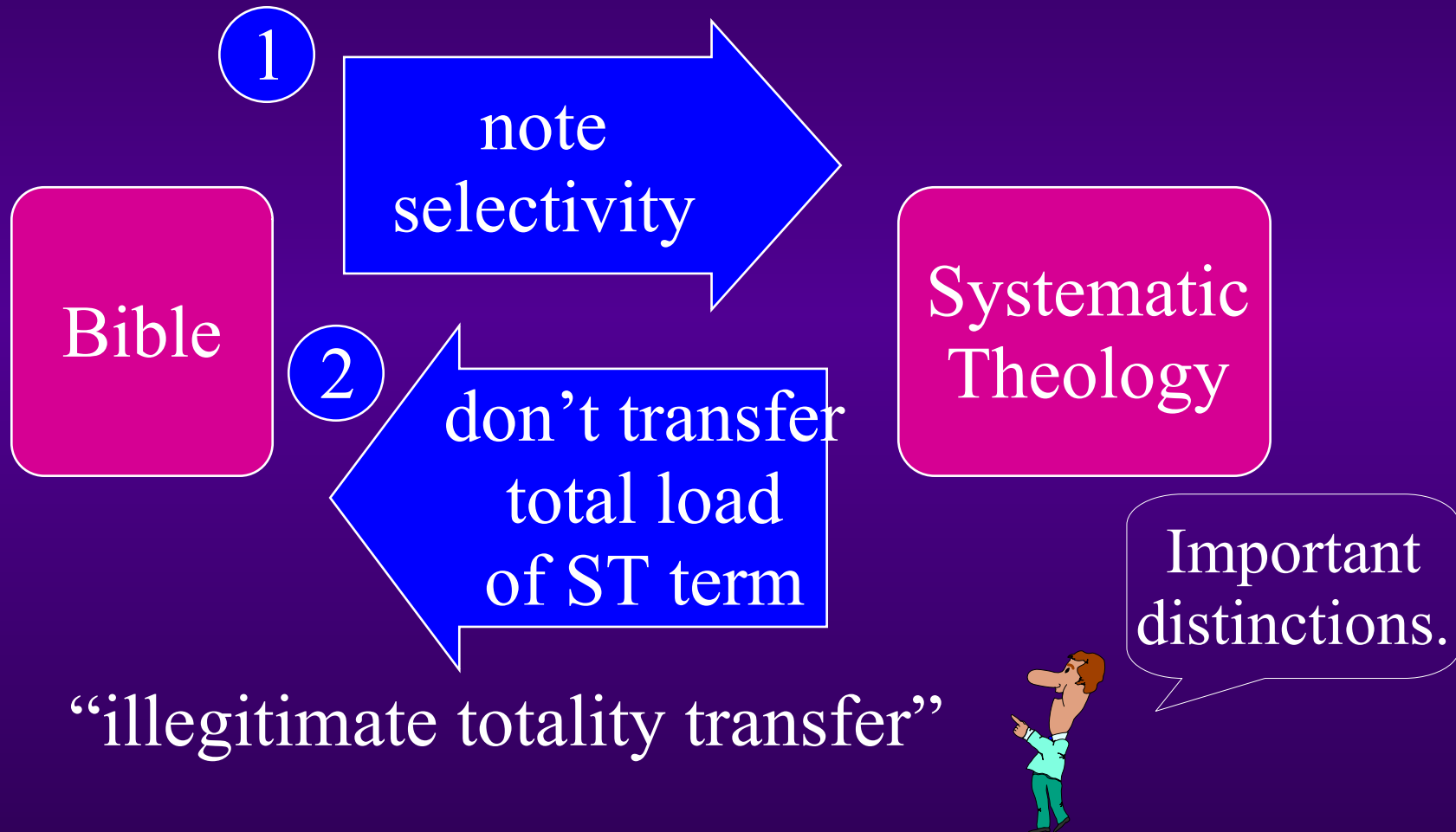
summarizing a
large amount of
rich biblical teaching

word

similar to
concept



Challenge of Technical Terms





The Problem Illustrated

concept

=summary
of biblical
teaching

word

1X in KJV,
0 in RSV, NIV

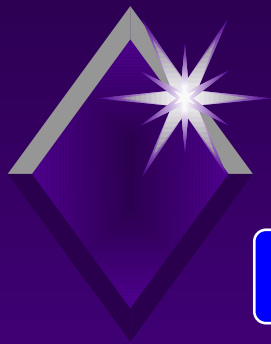
word

concept

Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*
2:639:

... the Holy Spirit so operates on the
chosen people of God, that they are
brought to repentance and faith, and
thus made heirs of eternal life,
through Jesus Christ their Lord.

This work of the Spirit is in the
Scriptures called VOCATION. It is
one of the many excellences of the
Reformed Theology that it retains, as
far as possible, Scriptural terms for
Scriptural doctrines.



The Problem Illustrated (cont.)

word

concept

It is proper that this should be done.

Words and thoughts are so intimately related that to change the former, is to modify, more or less seriously, the latter. And as the words of Scripture are the words of the Spirit, it is becoming and important that they should be retained.

no translation?

word

Clarify
your thinking.

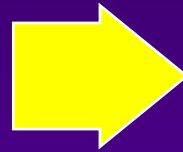


in the autograph,
and in Greek
and Hebrew



NT Vocabulary

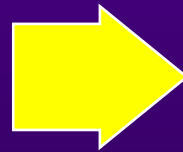
καλέω, κλητός,
κλήσις
“call, called, calling”



in Paul

only Rev. 17:14
no

γεννάω
“beget, give birth”



in John



Temptation to Leap to Concepts

word

naïve
leap

theological
concept

καλέω, κλητός,
κλησις
“call, called, calling”

?

“vocation”

γεννάω
“beget, give birth”

?

“regeneration”



Likely Meaning in NT

word

καλέω, κλητός,
κλησις
“call, called, calling”

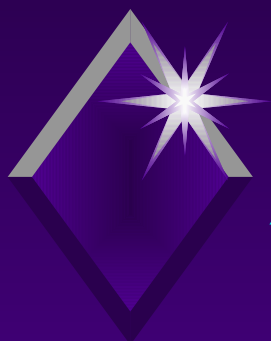
γεννάω
“beget, give birth”

analogy
with spoken
command

analogy
with birth

theological
concept

aspects of
beginning
of new life



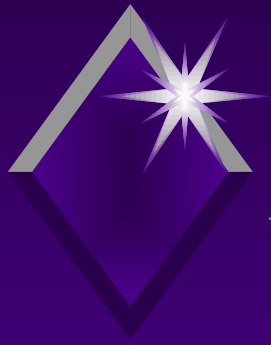
Berkhof on Sanctification

etymology

confusing
English and
Hebrew

if so,
retranslate
as “aloof”

Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* 527:
Others, with a greater degree of
probability, derive the word [קָדַשׁ]
from the root *qad*, meaning ‘to cut.’
This would make the idea of separation
the original idea. The word would then
point to aloofness, separateness, or
majesty. Though this meaning of the
words ‘sanctification’ and ‘holiness’ may
seem unusual to us, it is in all probability
the fundamental idea expressed by them.



Louis Berkhof's Procedure

Start with קדש.

Meaning unrelated to “sanctification.”

The rest ignores קדש.

Use verses on sanctification,
no matter what vocabulary occurs.

Succeeds in spite of bad beginning.



John Murray on Order of Salvation

But Christians
continue to hear
and believe!

“Having believed, you were marked
in him with a seal, the promised
Holy Spirit, ...” (Eph. 1:13)

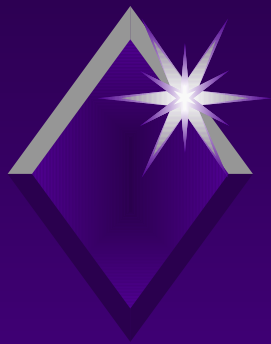
concept: an action at
beginning of new life

John Murray, *Redemption
Accomplished and Applied*
82 (on Eph. 1:13):

“Hearing and believing are
therefore prior in order and
cannot be made to follow
the sealing of the Spirit.”

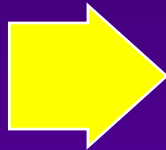
assumes one order.

But compare 1 Cor. 2:12.



What Paul Means

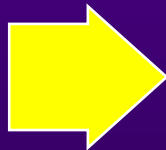
believe



sealed with Spirit

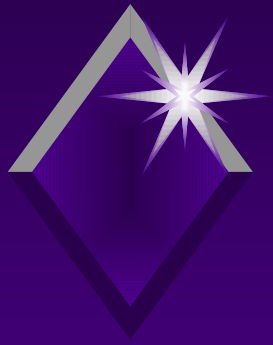
pictured through
its visible side

confess



baptized

actual temporal order



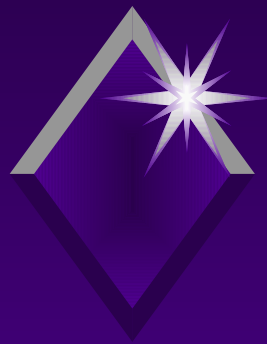
Summary of the Situation

Paul's uses words without technical precision.

Murray reads in technical meaning.

Murray is usually better:

He exegetes whole passages, not words.



Evaluating Systematic Theology

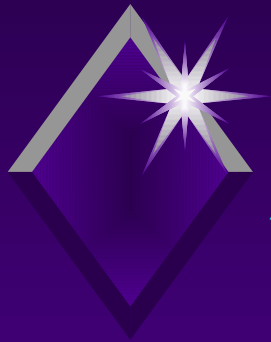
“Word” study means trouble.

Be balanced in evaluating the past.

Augustine and Calvin cited passages.

Post-Reformation developed technical terms
and associated problems.

But they too knew their Bible.



Refocusing Your Study

Study passages, not words.

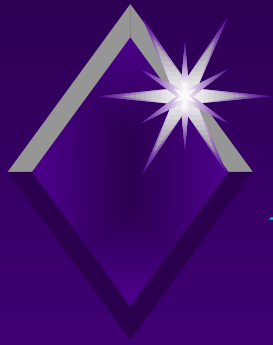
Greek speaker just read Paul.

The Bible has technical vocabulary:

βλασφημία, ἀπόστολος, γέννα.

But even here, easy to see too much.

Baal worshipers spoke Hebrew;
gnostics spoke Greek.



False Motives for Word Study

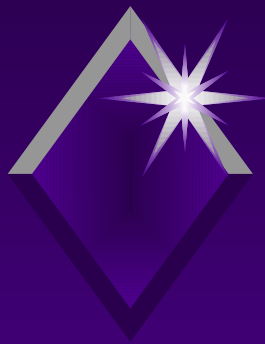
Laziness

Desire to appear rigorous

Imitation of others

Feeling of profundity;

cf. James Barr, “Etymology and the OT,” *OTS* 19 (1974)
1-28.



Correlations of Words with Theological Concepts

word

concept

δικαιόω

“vindicate”

Rom. 5:1

justification

ἀγιάζω

“consecrate”

Rom. 6:19

sanctification

Rom. 6:7
Heb. 10:10

Watch out!





Danger of Reading in

word

concept

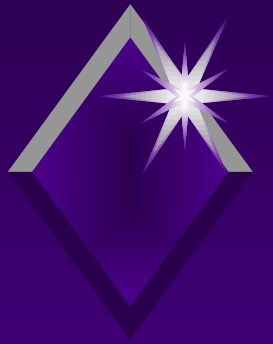
δικαιόω
in James 2:21
“vindicate”

justification

ἀγιάζω
in 1 Cor. 1:2
“consecrate”

sanctification





Theological Jargon

“justification”

put right, declare right,
acquit, vindicate

in English, “giving reasons”

“sanctification”

consecrate, purify, make
upright, morally renew

“covenant”

contract, agreement, Commun-
pact, commitment ica-tion

“covenant children”





Forming a Concept from John 3

word

concept

γεννάω,
“beget”

focus on
unity

“regeneration,”
work of the Spirit
in all history

focus on
climax

“regeneration,”
eschatological realization
of work of the Spirit

Your
choice.



John 7:37-39



Forming a Concept of Faith

word

πίστις,
“faith”

focus on
unity

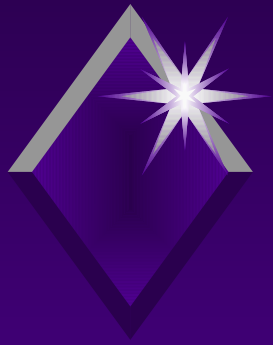
focus on
climax

concept

“saving faith,”
trust in God
in all history

“faith,”
eschatological realization
of work of the Spirit

Gal. 3:23



What Is a Covenant?

word

concept

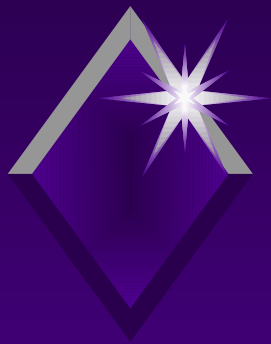
בְּרִית,
“covenant”

?

Your choice
again!

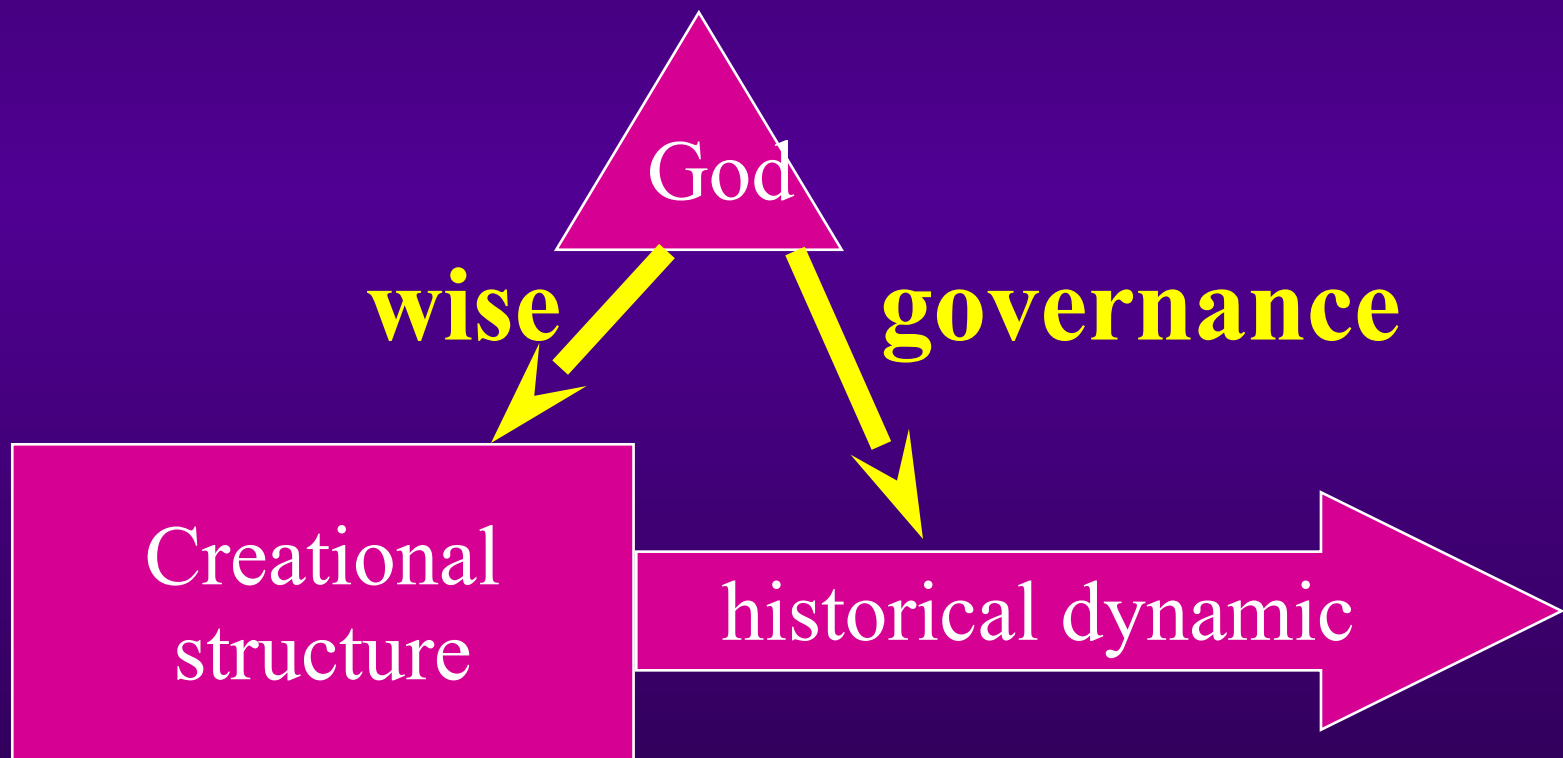


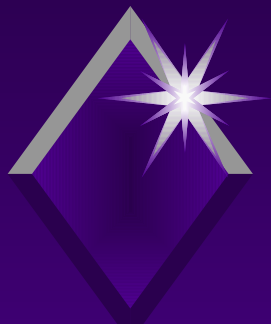
= a formally *ratified* (stipulatory) pact
with *sanctions*; a pact ratified by oath



Covenant Concept for Conn

Expand to include all cultures.





Covenant for Robertson

Common core of God's fellowship with human beings: "a bond in blood, sovereignly administered"

Abraham

Moses

David

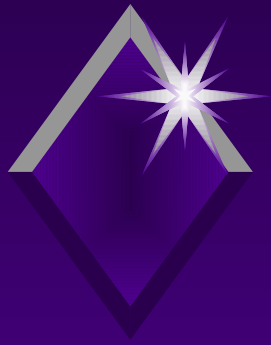
Christ

Gen. 12,
15, 17

Exod.
24

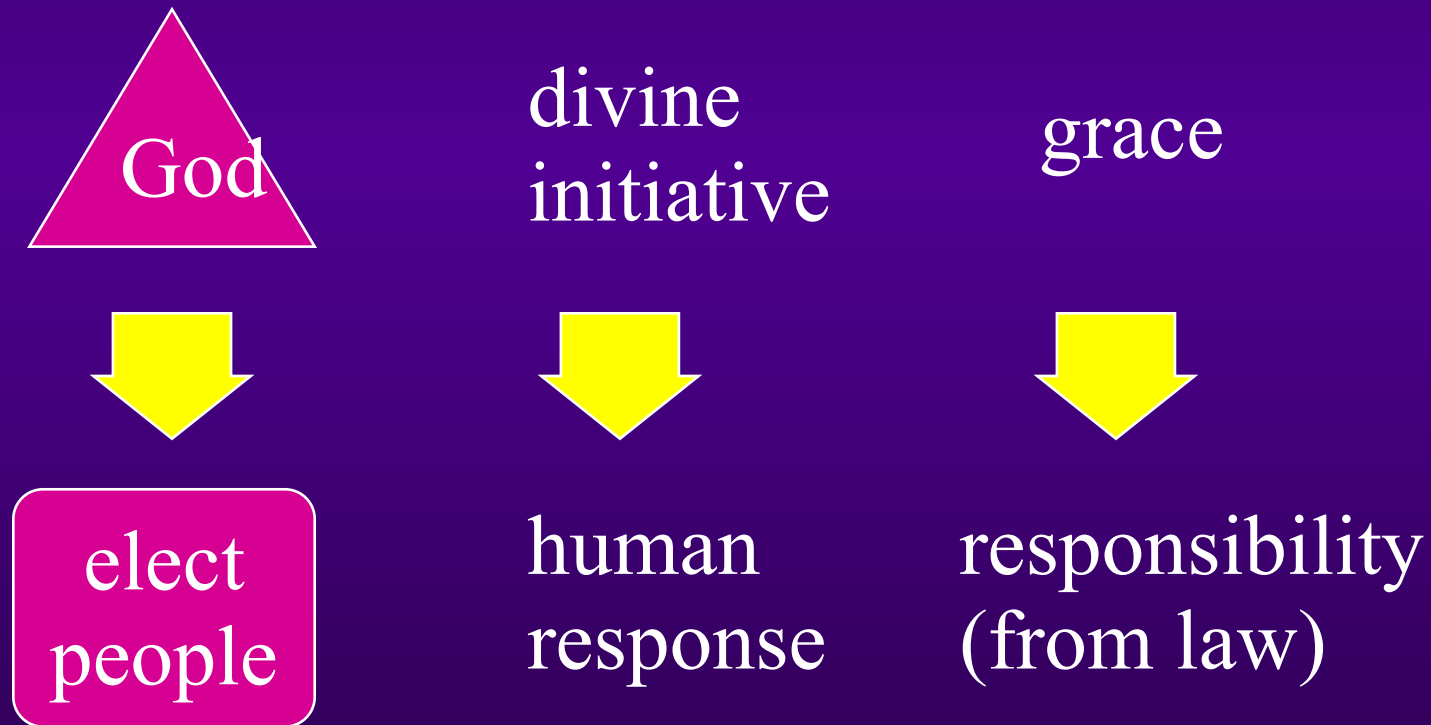
2 Sam.
7:5-16

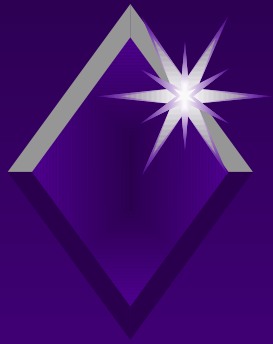
2 Cor. 3



Covenant Concept for Murray

One way of salvation

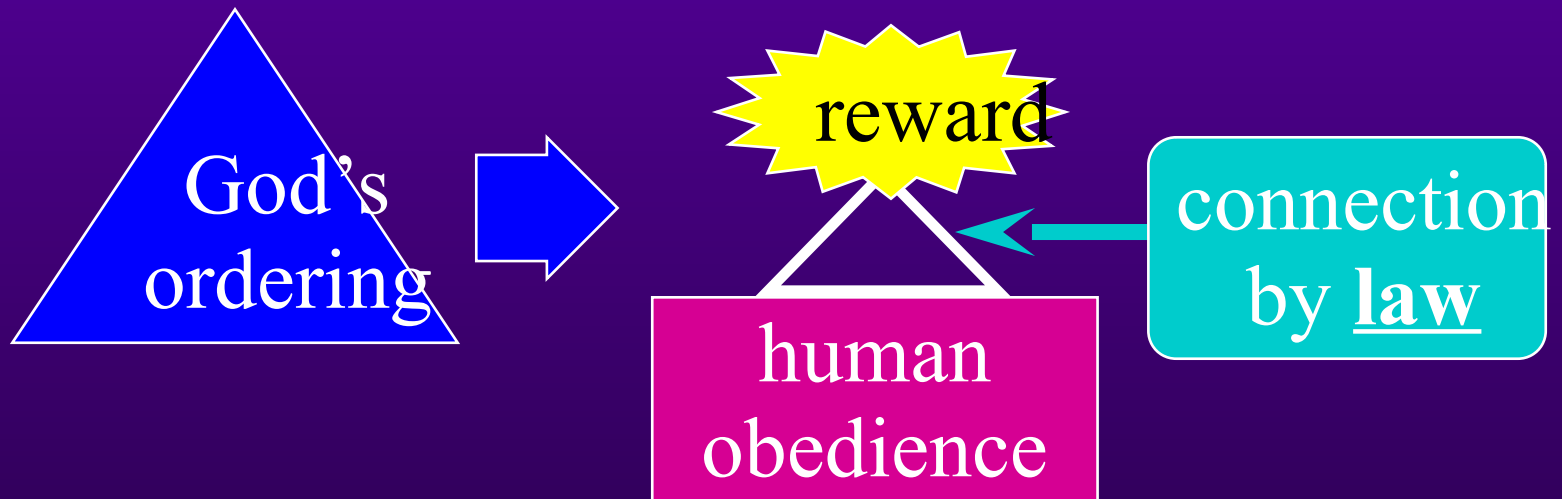


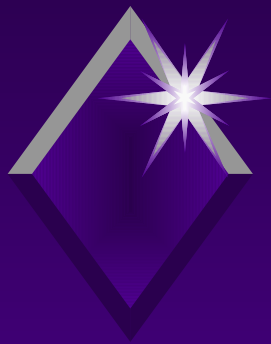


Covenant Concept for Kline

Understand substitutionary grace

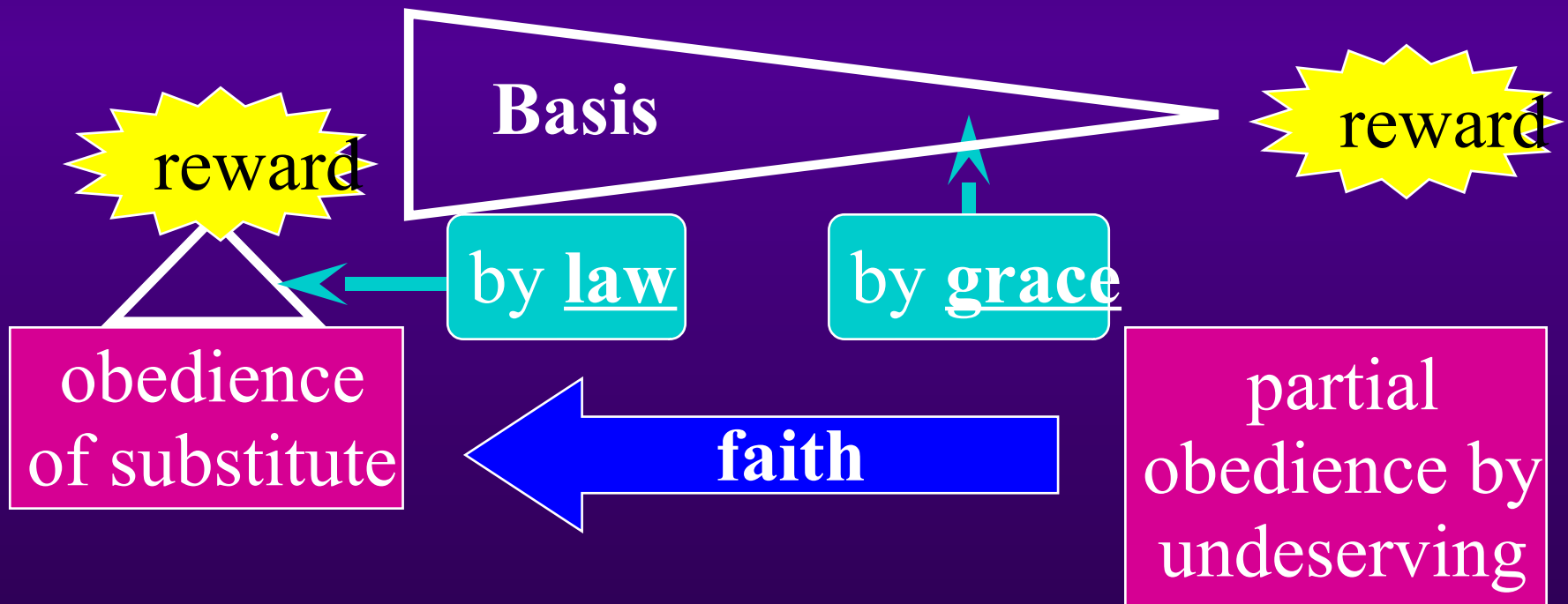
Law principle: reward is based on and grounded in obedience by the human party.

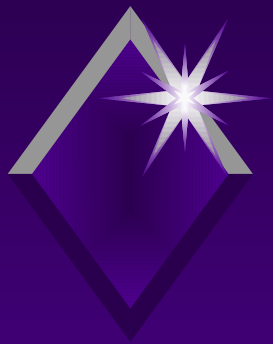




Grace in Kline

Grace principle: reward is based on obedience of a substitute.





Conflict of Murray and Kline

“grace”

“law”

Murray:

God's
beneficence

responsibility
to obey God's
standard

Kline:

substitution
for demerit

reward on basis
of desert



Potential
confusion.

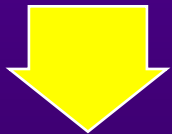


Murray Interpreting Lev. 18:5

“You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them.”

Murray:

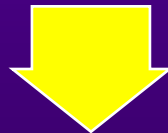
grace



responsibility
(from law)

Lev. 18:5:

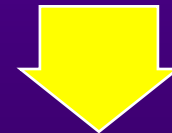
redemption
out of Egypt



“obey them”

Application
Gal. 6:7-8:

redemption
out of sin



Christians obey
the moral law

“live” out of receiving more grace



Kline Interpreting Lev. 18:5

Kline:

reward

obedience
of substitute
under law

Lev. 18:5:

“live”

“obey them”

Application

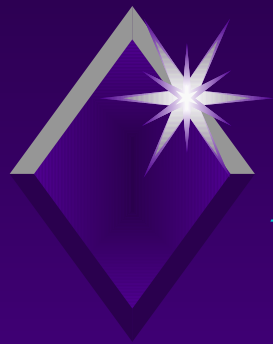
Gal. 3:12-14:

reward to us

imputed

resurrected
life

Christ obeys
perfectly



Lessons from Covenant

Each approach is selective.

Absolutizing leads to heresy.

Doing theology is risky, but do it.

Greater cleverness leads to greater danger.

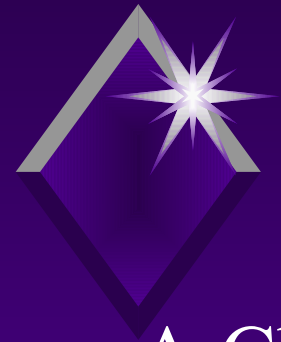
Creative theology produces tensions.

Whole picture comes with the consummation.

Richness as residing in relations.

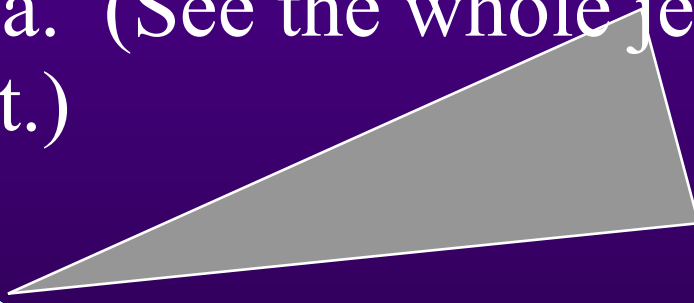
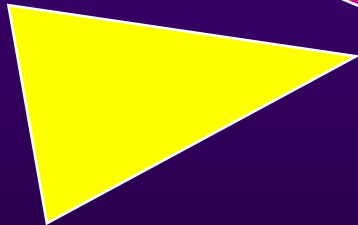


H. Using Multiple Perspectives



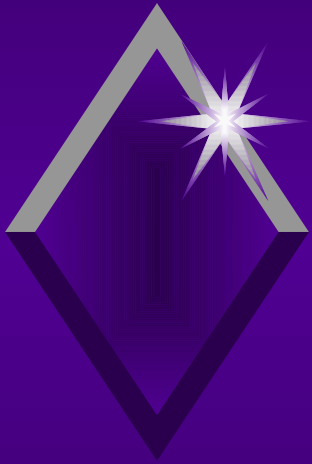
What Is Symphonic Theology?

A Christian style of life, interpretation, and thinking in which an endeavor is made to take a number of limited complementary starting principles and use them as perspectives for interpreting and understanding in a harmony the whole of a given subject area. (See the whole jewel through one facet.)



Exploring





1. The Four Gospels as an Example

Perspectives from Four Gospels

One Lord
Jesus Christ

Revealed in

Matthew

Mark

Luke

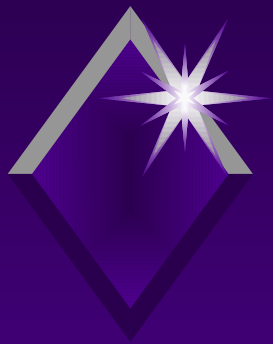
John

King in
the line of
David

Warring
against the
kingdom of
evil spirits

Jubilee
liberator
of the poor

Revealer
of the
Father



Truth in the Gospels

Each Gospel has a different human perspective.

Each has a different divine perspective.

All are true.

God does not contradict himself.

Any one Gospel presents Christ truly.

God affirms four perspectives.



Amazing!



Knowing

Differences in manner of knowing; Knowing includes unity and diversity.

One Christ

Known
through

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John



Contrasts with Relativism

Relativism

No real truth.

Truth and error
harmonize.

Reality inaccessible.

Everyone confined
to his own view.

Biblical Symphony

The Bible's statements
are absolutely true.

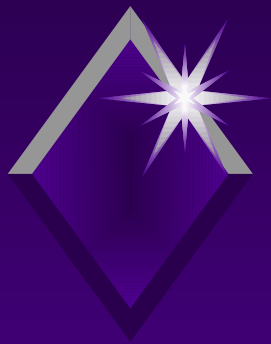
Grow in truth and remove
error.

Truth overwhelmingly
surrounds us.

Learn more from all four
Gospels.

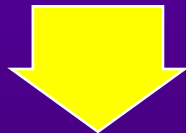


Antithesis.



Symphony Imitates Trinity

God is
3 in 1



You unify
perspectives
of others

Sound
starting
point.





2. *Diversity in the Body of Christ*

Perspectives in the Body

1 Cor. 12

God-made diversity

value and love others

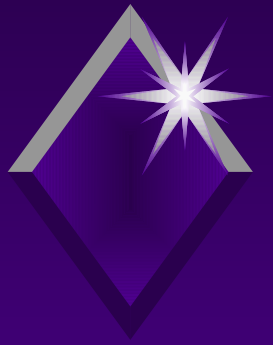
see from their view

second perspective

**20th and 21st
century
exposure to
diversity
means a need
for joints and
ligaments**

**Part of
God's plan.**





The Love Commandment

“Love your neighbor as yourself”



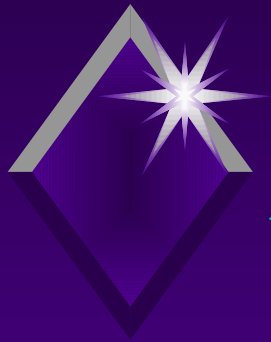
Listen and understand



second perspective

Unavoidable





Knowing in the Body of Christ

Knowing in the body of Christ includes
unity (shared doctrine) and
diversity (manner and grasp of truth).

One Christ

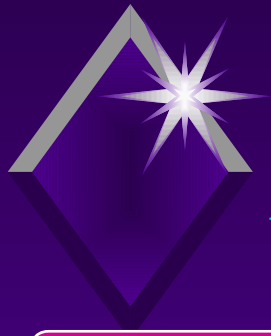
Known
through

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John



Kinds of Diversity

In personality

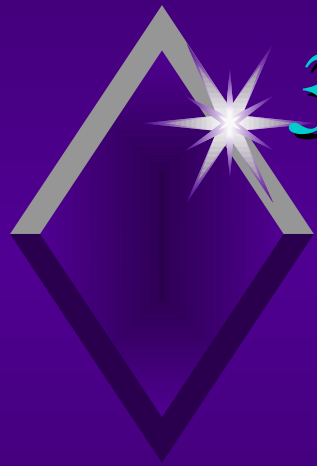
Various
biblical
characters

In spiritual gifts

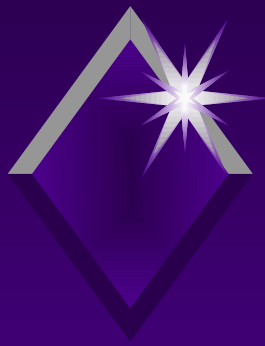
1 Cor. 12

In modes
of knowing

Four Gospels



3. *Using Perspectives*



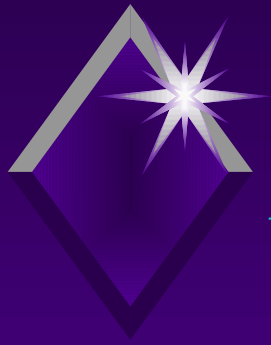
Using Perspectives in Contextualizing Theology

Western past	Guilt	Justification
Tribes	Evil spirits	Holy war
Black US	Dignity, release from oppression	Exodus
Asian	Shame	Shame of cross
USA now	Meaninglessness	Adoption

See E. D. Burns, *The Transcultural Gospel*



Lots of potential.



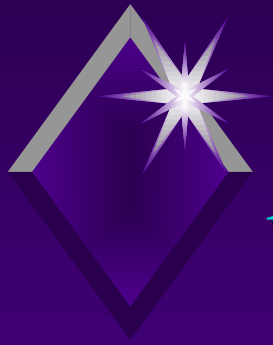
Multiperspective Analysis

One passage enjoys many relations.

Look at the passage through a theme.

Themes suggest connections to Christ.

Themes help to preach Christ (Luke 24:44-49).



Assignment in Perspectives

Read through pp. 8.19-8.21.

Apply the same procedure to Isa. 52:11-12.

Use perspectives 1b, 2c, 3d, 5a, and 5d.

For 1b and 2c, connect to Christ.

Turn in a summary.

Hope you
have fun!

