

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Grace

PROTESTANT

CONSERVATIVE PRESBYTERIANISM

- TULIP expresses the fundamentals of faith
- Trust in God is essential
- Grace is irresistible; thus, if you do good works that are saving it is because God is moving you to do so in the infiniteness of his mercy.

LUTHERAN

- Pervasiveness of sin
- Convicted by the law
- Free gift of justifying grace

METHODIST

- God's prevenient grace prepares humans to receive God's mercy
- Prevenient Grace: "The divine love that surrounds all humanity and precedes any and all of our conscious impulses" (*The Book of Discipline*, 101)
- Christians may be made perfect in love in this life by God's grace

BAPTIST

PENTECOSTAL

LIBERAL PROTESTANT

ORTHODOX

- Three stages in God's plan of creation
- The effect of sin on creation's participation in God
- Redemption: the role of the Church
 - Corporate grace
 - Sacraments?
 - The liturgy
 - Monasticism
- Deification
 - Uncreated grace
 - Criticism of the concept of created grace
 - Participation in the divine energies
- The human and the created world
 - Graced matter

- New creation

CATHOLIC

GRACE HYPOSTASIZED: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

- Patristic themes
 - New Eve
 - Completion of Israel
 - Full of grace
- Images
 - Theotokos
 - Hodigitria
 - Galaktrophusa
 - Panakranta platyrera
 - Balukliotissa
 - Eleousa
- Hymnody
- Perspectives
 - Bernard of Clairvaux (12c)
 - God "willed us to have everything through Mary"
 - Bernardino of Siena (15c)
 - "One Hebrew woman invaded the house of the eternal King; one girl, I do not know by what caresses, pledges or violence seduced, deceived and, if I may say so, wounded and enraptured the divine heart and ensnared the Wisdom of God"
 - Renaissance (15-16cc)
 - Reformation
 - Luther: Perfect virginity and divine motherhood
 - Zwingli & Calvin: Mary as example
 - Counter-Reformation
 - Peter Canisius, *De Maria Virgine Incomparabili*, 1577
 - Francisco Suarez
 - Robert Bellarmine
 - Lawrence of Brindisi (16c)
 - "God so loved Mary that he gave his only-begotten Son."
 - Jean-Jacques Olier (17c)
 - Founder of the seminary of St. Sulpice, author of *O Jesu vivens in Maria*
 - *Vie intérieure de la très sainte Vierge* (Rome, 1866)
 - Christ grants what Mary wants: "He saw ... what she would have desired for each of us had she been already in the world, and he acted according to the intentions, desires, and the prayers of Mary, which he foresaw."
 - Jesus "wants Mary to be like a circle that surrounds him; for he is delighted thus to remain surrounded, enveloped, and hidden under his mother, in order that she should be loved, invoked, and sought by all who want to reach him."
 - Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort (18c)
 - *L'Amour de la Sagesse éternelle*
 - *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*
 - The Our Father should be coupled with the Hail Mary
 - Each person should surrender himself to Mary
 - Mary "knows all the secret ways of gaining the heart of God"

- Christ always obeys his Mother
 - We should never dare approach Christ on our own
 - “We cannot approach Jesus but by Mary, we can only see Jesus and speak to him by her intercession....It is in Mary that Jesus Christ has calmed his Father, irritated against men.”
- Immaculate Conception
 - Purity of Mary in the tradition
 - God’s action in history
 - Local feast in 10th century
 - Anselm of Canterbury
 - Defense by Duns Scotus
 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception established as universal by Sixtus IV in 1476
 - Dogma
 - Repercussions
 - Orthodox perspectives
 - Anglican perspectives
- Assumption
 - Dormition of Mary
 - Resurrection
 - Dogma
 - Repercussions
 - Orthodox perspectives
 - Anglican perspectives
- Issues
 - Co-Redeemer
 - Source of all grace

PROVIDENCE

- Reality of evil in a post-holocaust, post-Hiroshima world
- Universal providence and human will
 - Human responsibility for history
 - Outcome of human history
 - Progress
- Individual providence
 - God’s plan
 - Our choices
 - Discerning God’s will for our lives
- New look at themes of the past
 - Molina
 - Predestination & Calvin

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GRACE IN THIS LIFE

- Cooperation
- Virtues
- Physical and mental grace
- Saintliness

THE "AFTERLIFE"

- The status of the person after death
- Purgatory
- Being with God
- Being without God
- Resurrection
- The life of the world to come

COMMUNICATION OF GRACE

- Causality in the postmodern world
 - Sacraments
 - Instrumental communication of grace
 - (Quasi) formal causality
- Individual and community
 - Grace and the church
 - Prayers of/for others

GRACE & FREE WILL

- Works righteousness/Pelagianism
- Predestination/laxism
- Jansenism/discernment
- How the Christian is made holy