

TWO PATTERNS OF THEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION

FUTURE ORIENTATION	PRESENT ORIENTATION
<p>Eschatology: FUTURE</p> <p>Theological Paradigm: THE CROSS</p> <p>Examples: Synoptics (Mark); Hebrews “Mainline” Catholics & Protestants</p> <p>Characteristic Elements:</p>	<p>Eschatology: REALIZED</p> <p>Theological Paradigm: THE RESURRECTION</p> <p>Examples: John; Cor. opponents; Ephesians Pentecostals, Charismatics</p> <p>Characteristic Elements:</p>
<p>Jesus' humanity, suffering, example stressed</p> <p>Spiritual gifts as “foretaste” and “seal”</p> <p>Considerable church structure Institutionalized authority (office [apostle, pope]; tradition [Bible, councils])</p> <p>Sacramental orientation (e.g., “real presence”)</p> <p>Social ethic (“love your enemies” in Synoptics)</p> <p>Can allow shades of gray, degrees of truth</p> <p>Indefinite/flexible group boundaries</p> <p>Imperfect obedience; realistic “anthropology”</p> <p>Social distinctions may be accepted/reinforced</p>	<p>Jesus' divinity, triumph, empowering stressed</p> <p>Possess fullness of the Spirit/Jesus' presence</p> <p>Little church structure Charismatic authority (prophets, gifts)</p> <p>Non-sacramental orientation (spiritual presence)</p> <p>Inward looking (“love one another” in John)</p> <p>Tendency toward sectarianism, absolute truth</p> <p>High, clear group boundaries (strong cohesion)</p> <p>Perfect obedience; idealistic “anthropology”</p> <p>Social distinctions irrelevant/overthrown</p>

Craig C. Hill

In God's Time