



The New Community

Ecclesiology



Problem of the Church (186-189)

- Individualism in America has difficulty with interdependence of church
- Privatization of religion separates church from needs of world
- Bureaucratic organization of church replaces participation with membership
- Discrepancy between preaching and practice



New Testament Images (189-192)

- *Ecclesia* refers to the community "called out"
 - Comes from term used for democratic assembly that ruled polis
- *Not reign of God, but the manifestation or first fruits of God's reign*



New Testament Images (cont.)

- People of God called into covenant relationship
- Servant people that witnesses to God's grace and call for justice
- Body of Christ made up of mutually dependent members
- Community of the Spirit filled by gifts of Spirit and overcoming divisions to signal the new age of God's reign



Current Models of the Church

- Institution of salvation – typically identifies church with offices, procedures, and traditions
 - Problem of institutional maintenance rather than faithful service
 - *"ecclesia reformata semper refomanda" – "The church reformed, always in need of being reformed"*



Current Models of the Church (cont.)

- Intimate community of the Spirit – typically small, spontaneous, loosely organized, promoting faith experience of its members
 - Can devolve into religious therapy and self-centeredness



Current Models of the Church (cont.)

- Sacrament of salvation – church in its worship, witness, and service is sign of presence of Jesus Christ (emphasis upon sacraments, especially Eucharist)
 - Danger of liturgism and neglect of social responsibility



Current Models of the Church (cont.)

- Herald of good news – stresses the evangelistic mission of church
 - Can narrow proclamation to merely spreading beliefs and neglecting concrete needs for food, shelter, etc.



Current Models of the Church (cont.)

- Servant model (diaconal model) – serves God by serving the world “in its struggle for emancipation, justice, and peace”
 - Clearly the preferred model of Migliore
 - Christian base communities of liberation theology best exemplify this for Migliore
 - Danger of promoting a self-sacrifice that is really self-negation for exploited
 - Danger of reducing church to social function



Classical Marks of Church (200-205)

- One, holy, catholic, and apostolic church
 - Unity in light of trinity of God
 - Holy in light of participation in holy love of God that forgives sinners and stands up against injustices
 - Catholic in its universal acceptance of all
 - Apostolic in its faithfulness to witness of gospel attested to by prophets and apostles
 - Preaching Word of God and administration of Christ's sacraments