

Lecture 26: Augustine and Western Christianity

March 25, 2020

Augustine of Hippo (d. 430)

Significance

East vs. West

Power/perfection vs. sin/weakness – e.g. Augustine hears about *The Life of Antony*

Would the West have had a Reformation without Augustine?

Augustine's view of grace vs. Augustine's view of the church (cf. Donatist controversy)

Doctrinal Development

John of Damascus vs. Peter Lombard, *Sentences* and medieval dialectics

Theological "Alps"

Writings

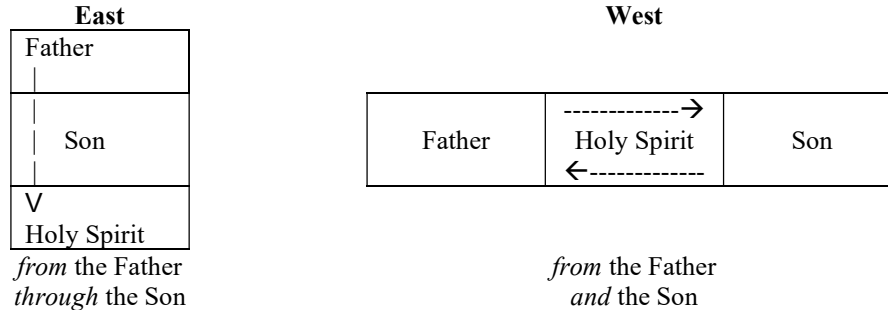
History – *The City of God* (antithesis)

Trinity → *filioque*

Grace vs. Free Will

Single Procession vs. Double Procession

Illus. Electrical Outlet vs. Battery (David N. Bell analogy)



The Pelagian Controversy

"You command continence, grant what You command, and command what You will" (*Confessions* 10.40).

against Manichees...

we have free will

Natural Ability

(man as created)

Did Augustine change his mind?

against Pelagius...

we do not have free will

Moral Inability

(man as fallen)

Illus. Staring at the sun and saying, "I can't love that person."

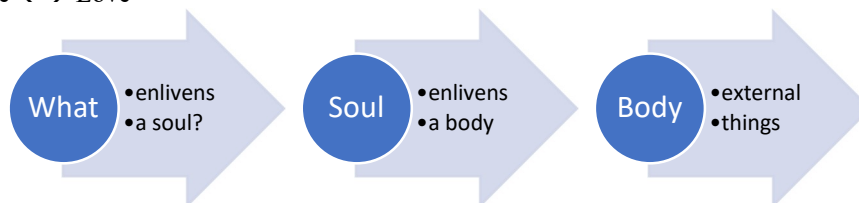
Confessions

Nothing like this in classical Greco-Roman literature (Cochrane, *Christianity and Classical Culture*, pp. 386-87).

Definition – to acknowledge one's *sins* **and** to acknowledge one's *God* (cf. Psalm 118:1; *Confessions* 11.1)

The quest for rest by imitating Christ's humility (cf. Matthew 11:25-30; *Confessions* 1.1; 7.14, 27; 9.1; 10.18)

Result: Praise ↔ Love



"Late have I loved you, beauty so old and so new: late have I loved you.

And see, you were within and I was in the external world and sought you there..." (*Confessions* 10.38)

Application: Do not use God to enjoy things, but use things to enjoy God.

Illus. Lover's Bouquet