

Doctrine of Neo-Orthodoxy

1. The Father of Neo Orthodoxy is Karl Barth, a professor in Basil, Switzerland.
2. Barth was influenced by the work of Friedrich Schleiermacher, a leader in Liberal Theology.
3. Neo, meaning new, and Orthodoxy refers to traditional teaching.
4. But the movement is misnamed for it attempted to find a middle ground position between liberalism and orthodox Christianity.
5. In Neo orthodoxy, the Bible was to be taken seriously but it still doubted so much of the teachings of Scripture such as:
 - Infallibility
 - Inerrancy
 - Verbal inspiration
6. At the center of the movement was concern over revelation and how revelation relates to truth and self.
7. Francis Schaffer coined the term “true truth” to speak of truth understood objectively and not subjectively.
8. Neo-O rejected creedal formulas or propositions.

Example: God is One in essence, three in persons.

This can be recited without any emotional attachment.
9. Emil Brunner postulated an emotional attachment to the gospel. He and Barth, and Kierkegaard wanted a passionate personal involvement in human existence.
10. There is more to truth than a naked idea, especially in relation to God. More than the mind is involved.
11. To know God is more than a theological formula, it is to have a personal and passionate encounter between people and God.
12. When God reveals Himself, He does not do it by dropping a textbook from heaven with propositions, but rather God’s revelation takes place through God’s actions through history.
13. For example, in the Exodus, God was revealing Himself.
14. Revelation is an event rather than a proposition.

15. But there are dangers in Neo-orthodoxy.
16. God has been active in history, He has revealed Himself in events, but the Bible is God's revelation and the interpretation and meaning of His events. We have not only the gospels but the epistles in the Bible.
17. Modern art needs interpretation, and so do the events of history, such as the Passover and the Cross.
18. What happens when the artist says, "You interpret my work!" God does not say, "You interpret my works!" No, no. God says, "I will tell you what my works mean." There is no room for radical subjectivism in Christendom. Objective propositions are essential.
19. We do not need to choose between passion and truth. We can be passionate about objective truth.
20. Karl Barth did say that the Bible is the *Verbum Dei* – the Word of God, but not the *verba dei* or the words of God. The Bible is the Word of God in a special sense but the Bible does not contain the words of God necessarily. And that is outrageous!
21. The Bible is not a book that has divine Revelation! But, as that Bible is read or heard, the Scriptures become the Word of God as the living presence of God is encountered. In that event, by the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Bible becomes the Word of God to me personally. But the Bible is not the Word of God.
22. The orthodox approach is to say the Holy Spirit is present, illuminating the Scripture, piercing our souls and hearts, but the Holy Spirit was working when Paul was writing to ensure that what He wrote was the Word of God. The Bible is Revelation in words, in propositions and in revelation is all of God.
23. The Cross is not an artistic rendering where-by self-interprets what it means. No, no. God tells us what the Cross is. The Bible tells us what the Cross means.

New reporter, what is the significance of the Cross? He answers, A criminal was justly executed.

Pilate, what is the significance of the Cross? An innocent man was murdered by emotional Jews who hated His teachings.

Caiaphas, what is the meaning of the Cross? The cross was an expeditious way of putting down a national uprising. I saw it was better for one man to die than a nation be slaughtered over a religious zealot.

Centurion, what is the meaning of the Cross? I do not know but I think that Man was the Son of God.

Paul, what is the meaning of the Cross? And Paul tells us that atonement took place, a cosmic event, whereby the creature can be reconciled to their Creator. Christ was the sacrifice offered to meet the demands of God's judgment.

24. Only by divine revelation can be the Cross be properly understood. This is the value of the Bible.