

C. The Development of Ecclesiastical Systems

1. An Introductory Note:

An ecclesiastical system is a recognition of formalist thinking along church lines, structures or orders. It may require formal implementation or be purely theoretical, although the latter will not go far! It is impossible to exist without them and very difficult to contain them but there are many lessons in observing the nature of them and the impact they have in society.

I will put one in a box for you...I have gotten the box...you will need to do the writing if you wish! The categories of formalistic thinking are

liturgical
mystical
pragmatic

-11-

2. The Liturgical systems.

The best known of these are the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and smaller bodies developed from these.

a. The Roman Catholic church...the largest by far in this class and the best known. I can only skeletonize it and point out similarities in other bodies.

---the church in Rome, Romans 16, 1 Peter 5

---the growth factor

---development of a pastoral structure

an episcopos

many presbyters

---development of worship forms to show unity

---leadership selection: elections

---recognized pastoral orders

---mission churches and missionaries

---political necessity: Gregory I

---diplomatic necessity: the Vatican states

---developments in liturgy: the sacraments

---sacramental theology; synergism

---Political recognition and the Holy Roman Empire

---Summary: no one planned what we see today.

The body we see today grew out of social necessity, political appeal, and clever invention.

---The great defining bodies were the Council of

1 Cor 11: 23-26

The Process
9 steps