

MIDWEEK EQUIP

Gospel Guide [Chapter 3, The Gospel Displayed]: Handout & Discussion Questions

SUBJECT: The doctrine of **The Church** [*Ecclesiology*].

In **Systematic Theology**, the study of the church deals mainly with 5 parts:

1. The Definitions of the Church.
2. The Purpose(s) of the Church.
3. The Ordinances of the church.
4. The Role of Church Leaders/Government.
5. The Role of Members.

The Church: **Universal** and **Local**.

According to Scripture, the universal, invisible, and spiritual church refers all true Christians around the world past, present, and future.

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[Paragraph 3, Chapter 3]:

For those who have repented and believed, they are those that have become part of the household of God (**Ephesians 2:19-22**).

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[Paragraph 3 continued]:

This means that the church community is not a place you go to, but a people that you belong to. So the community of the church is a way of life for the Christian.

Local, visible, physical church which refers to:

- An assembly of disciples saved by Jesus,
- Unified by their gospel identity,
- Sent into the world on mission to proclaim the gospel
- Led by biblically qualified elders,
- Committed to proclaiming gospel truth and
- Living as gospel community in the world.

Ephesians 5:28-32

1689 Confession

[Chapter 26, Paragraph 2]

All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, not destroying their own profession by any errors everting the foundation, or unholiness of conversation, are and may be called visible saints; 2 and of such ought all particular congregations to be constituted. 3

2 **1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 11:26**

3 **Rom. 1:7; Eph. 1:20-22**

Gospel Guide: The Gathering of believers

[Paragraph 1, 2]

[P1] This time is the upward part of the churches community. [P2] The focus of this time is for God to be gloried through His Word. So this means, all believers gathered, seek the unity of the body and the truth of the gospel by singing the Word, reading the Word, responding to the Word, and preaching the Word (**Acts 2:42, Colossians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 14:26**).

John Calvin

[Institutes, IV.i.9]

“Wherever we see the Word of God purely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to Christ’s institution, there, it is not to be doubted, a church of God exists... If it has the ministry of the Word and honors it, if it has the administration of the sacraments, it deserves without doubt to be held and considered a church. For it is certain that such things are not without fruit”.

Acts 2:37-38, 42

Gospel Guide: The Ordinances

[Chapter 3]

Baptism and communion (the Lord’s Supper) are the two ordinances prescribed by our Lord Jesus Christ as visible symbols of invisible grace. They are discernible and tangible representations of both the invisible realities of the gospel and the Spirit’s application of this gospel to our lives.

With both ordinances, believers have an opportunity to remember God’s goodness and grace, especially as revealed in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Gospel Guide: Putting on Christ

[Chapter 2, last Paragraph]

Practically, putting on Christ involves serving the Lord and others, and studying God’s Word. Putting on Christ means increasing fellowship, singing, praying, and setting our mind on the things above, primarily through fellowship in our local church. This process will take time, and we’ll continue to make missteps. But, when God brings someone to repentance, the fruit will be evident over time (Luke 6:43–45).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

[Q1] What challenged and/or encouraged you in tonight's talk on the church?

[Q2] How does the statement "it is impossible to love Jesus and not His bride—they are inseparable" challenge us?

[Q3] Are you committed to a local church where you are serving and putting on display to other believers and the world what Christ has done in you?

[Q4] How might we more *faithfully* and *sacrificially* be committed to our local church?

[Closing Prayer] Pray and ask God to strengthen your love for His local church. Ask God to help you in displaying the gospel, both to other believers and to the world.

RESOURCES:

Listen to Pastor David's sermons from the teaching series about the Church, titled: "The Dearest Place On Earth" at redeemersw.com/sermons.

View the **1689 Baptist Confession** online at the1689confession.com.