

Real Churches in the Real World



Baptist Confession of 1689

Chapter 26.3



REVIEW

1. There is a universal church, which consists of all believers - past, present, future. This universal church is invisible, in that the work of the Spirit which makes us a part of it is invisible.
2. Those who profess the doctrine of the gospel and an obedient life; and who do not overthrow their profession with error or unholiness of lifestyle - these can be called visible saints, and comprise local church members.
3. **Applications:**
 - There is no universal, *visible* church structure
 - Since the local church is a subset (microcosm) of the whole, local church members are to be regenerate.
 - Since it is human beings determining membership, we rely on what we can hear and see - a credible profession, and corresponding evidence.

Real Churches In A Sinful World

“The purest churches under heaven are subject to mixture and error”

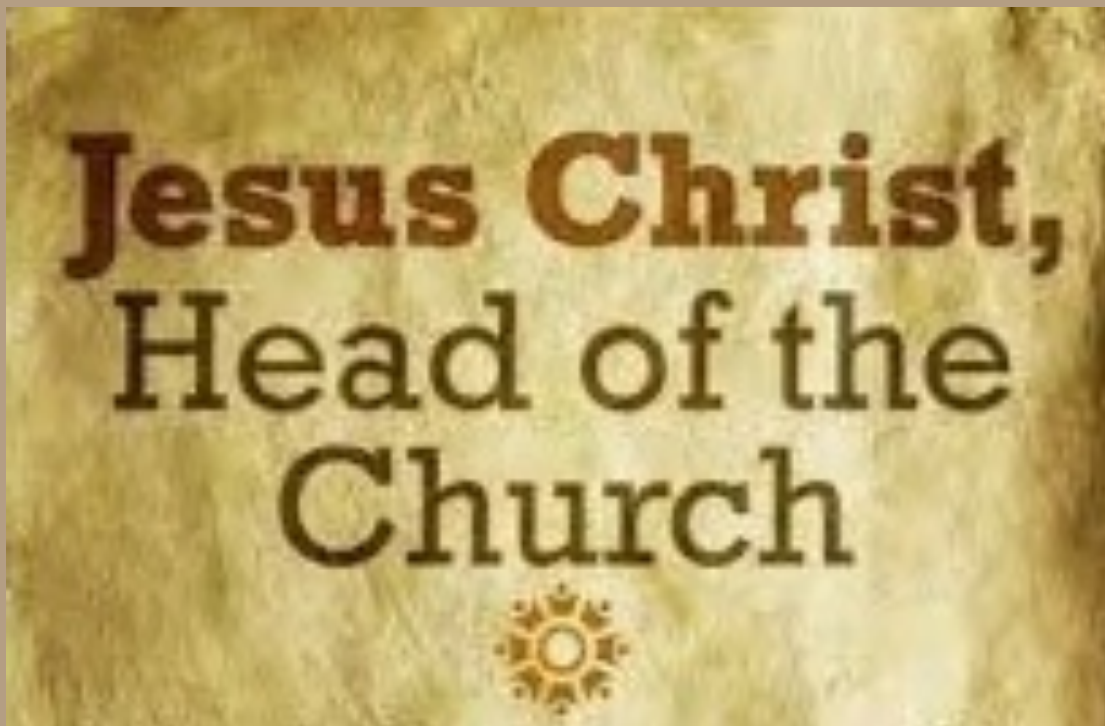
Real Churches In A Sinful World

“... and some have so degenerated as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan....”

Real Churches In A Sinful World

“... nevertheless Christ always has had, and ever shall have a kingdom in this world, to the end thereof, of such as believe in Him, and make profession of His name.”

Jesus Christ: The Only Head of the Church



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Chapter 26.4

Bonham, TX

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Jesus Christ: The Only Head of the Church

“The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father all power for the calling, institution, order, or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner....”

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Colossians 1:18
- Ephesians 2:20 (concept of cornerstone)

Jesus Christ: The Only Head of the Church

“What does Christ do as Head of the Church? How does He fulfill this role?”

1.

2.

3.

4.

Jesus Christ: The Only Head of the Church

“... neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God; whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.”

1. What does this mean regarding the eschatology of the writers of the Confession?
2. How else do men usurp the role of Head of the Church?