

Covenant Baptism: The Church

Lecture #3: “And I saye also unto the that thou art Peter & upon this rocke I will bylde my congregacion” -Jesus

OUTLINE

1. **Simpler Covenant administration in the NT makes the assembly of God look different.**
2. **The English translation of “ekklesia” as “church” in the NT vs “assembly” in the OT.**

English word “church” = translation of Gk. ἐκκλησία (ekklesia) or Heb. קהל (qahal).

Deuteronomy 9:10 “Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them *were* all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly [church / ἐκκλησία / קהל].”

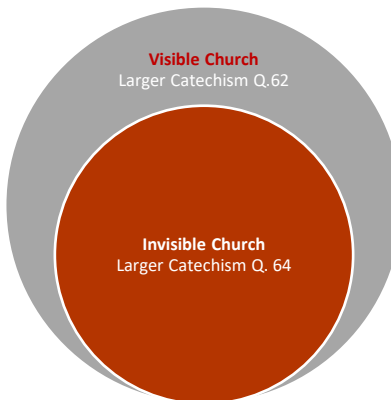
Acts 5:11 “So great fear came upon all the church [assembly / ἐκκλησία] and upon all who heard these things.”

Matthew 16:18 (Tyndale) “And I saye also unto the that thou art Peter & upon this rocke I will bylde my congregacion [church / assembly / ἐκκλησία].”

Deuteronomy 23:2 “One of illegitimate birth shall not enter the assembly [church / ἐκκλησία / קהל] of the LORD; even to the tenth generation none of his *descendants* shall enter the assembly [church / ἐκκλησία / קהל] of the LORD.

Ezra 10:1 - Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large assembly [church / ἐκκλησία / קהל] of men, women, and children gathered to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.

3. **The visible / invisible church distinction**



WCF (1646) “Of the Church”	LBC (1689) “Of the Church”
<p>25.2 - The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.</p>	<p>26.2 - 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; and of such ought all particular congregations to be constituted.</p>

1 Corinthians 5: ⁹ I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰ Yet *I* certainly *did* not *mean* with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. ¹¹ But now I have written to you not to keep company with **anyone named a brother**, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

¹² For what *have I to do* with judging those also **who are outside**[the church]? Do you not judge those **who are inside**? [the church] ¹³ But those who are **outside God judges**. Therefore “*put away from yourselves the evil person.*”

WLC Q. 62: What is the visible Church? A. The visible Church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

WLC Q. 63: What are the special privileges of the visible Church? A. The visible Church hath the privilege of being under God’s special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

WLC Q. 64: What is the invisible Church? A. The invisible Church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.

WLC Q. 65: What special benefits do the members of the invisible Church enjoy by Christ? A. The members of the invisible Church, by Christ, enjoy union and communion with him in grace and glory.

4. The sign of Church Membership is Baptism