

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH & LIFE** (*Westminster Confession; RPTestimony, c.25; Larger Catechism Q.60-65; reformedvoice.com outlines & audio of sermons in series; see The Scripture Doctrine of the Church, D. Bannerman*)
- B. OATHS, GOVERNMENT, MARRIAGE, CHURCH, SACRAMENTS** (chps.22-26; see 2Chr.36:12; Heb.6:17; *pledge* of allegiance; “vows” of marriage; *oaths of membership; signs of covenant*)

**I. THE TRUTHS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

**A. THE CHURCH OF GOD**

1. the church of God (Acts 20:12; 1Cor.10:32; 11:22; 1Th.1:1; 1Tm.3:5,15)
2. the church of Christ (Mt.16:18; Eph.1:22; 3:21; 4:15,16; 5:23f, see 1Th.1:1; 2Th.1:1)
3. the church of the Spirit (1Cor.3:16; Eph.2:22; 4:4; 1Cor.12:12,13)

**B. THE PICTURES OF THE CHURCH**

1. building (Eph.2:20 w/Eph.4:11; 1Cor.12:28; see 1Pt.2:4f; 1Cor.3:16)
2. body (1Cor.12:4f,12ff; Eph.4:4,12f,16)
3. bride (Eph.5:22f; Col.3:19; Rev.21:2f; see 2Cor.11:2; Ps.45)
4. household (Gal.6:10; Eph.2:19; 1Tm.3:5,15; 1Pt.4:17; see *house of Israel*, e.g. Mt.10:6; Acts 2:36; Heb.8:8; 10:21)
5. kingdom (Eph.5:5; see Eph.2:19; Phil.3:20)

**C. THE MARKS OF THE CHURCH**

1. teaching & preaching of the word (Lk.4:16,43; Acts 5:42; Col.1:24f; 1Tm.4:12f; 2Tm.4:2f)
2. administration of the sacraments (Mt.28:18f; 1Cor.11:17f,24f; see Acts 2:38,42)
3. exercise of church discipline (Mt.18:15; 1Cor.5:1f,13; vs. Rev.2:9,21; 3:3,9; see Heb.12:8,5f)

**D. THE DISTINCTIONS OF THE CHURCH**

1. visible / invisible (Acts 14:27; 1Cor.1:2; 11:18 / Heb.12:18f/22f; Col.2:5; see 1Cor.12:13)
2. means of grace ⇒ ends of grace ⇒ fruit of grace (Acts 2:42 ⇒ Rom.10:17; Mt.3:2; 4:17; 10:7 (2Cor.5:21; 1Cor.11:24,25) ⇒ Rom.5:21; 2Cor.6:1f; Eph.2:5f,10; 4:7f; Gal.5:6,22f; Tt.1:16; 2:17f; Jms.1:23f; 2:14f)
3. local / global (Rom.16:5; Tt.1:5 /Mt.28:18f; Acts 1:8; see Acts 15:2)
4. many / one (1Cor.12:4ff; Eph.4:1-16; 1Pt.4:10,11)
5. officers / members (Eph.2:20f; 4:11f; 1Cor.12:28f; see Phil.1:1; 1Tm.5:17; 3:8f,11)

**E. SOME ISSUES IN THE CHURCH**

1. believers & *their children* (1Tm.3:4,12; Rom.11:16,20; see Gen.6:18f; 17:10; Col.2:12; Mk.10:15f)
2. church & *building* (Lk.4:16; Acts 2:42,46; Rom.16:5; 2Cor.5:1f; 1Tm.6:8)
3. church & *parachurch* (see 2Cor.6:14; see Mt.28:18-20)

**II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THESE TRUTHS**

- A. TRUST JESUS TO BUILD HIS CHURCH!** (Mt.16:18; 28:18f; Eph.1:22f; 4:7f; 5:25f)
- B. JOIN THE INVISIBLE CHURCH BY REPENTANCE AND FAITH!** (Mk.1:15; Gal.2:20)
- C. JOIN THE VISIBLE CHURCH BY PROFESSION AND BAPTISM!** (Mt.28:18f; Acts 2:38f,41f; 1Cor.12:3)
- D. PARTICIPATE IN THE VISIBLE CHURCH BY THE MEANS OF GRACE FOR THE ENDS OF GRACE TO THE FRUIT OF GRACE!** (Mt.28:18f; Acts 2:42; Eph.2:5-10; 4:12-16; Gal.5:22f; Tt.2:17f)
- E. GIVE AND RECEIVE IN THE VISIBLE CHURCH** (1Cor.12:7,25; Eph.4:16; see Phil.4:15; 1Cor.9:11)
- F. CANNOT BE A PART OF CHRIST & APART FROM HIS BODY!** (Jn.15:4f; 1Cor.12:12f; Heb.10:24f)
- G. GO INTO THE WORLD IN ORDER TO BRING INTO THE CHURCH!** (Mt.28:18f; Lk.14:23; Acts 1:8)
- H. TAP YOUR ROOTS** (Rom.11:17f; e.g., 26f,34f; see 2Tm.3:14-17; 2Pt.1:20f; 3:16; e.g., Psalms!)
- I. BUILD YOUR LIFE, HOME AND SOCIETY ON A STRONG FOUNDATION!** (Eph.2:20f; Mt.7:24f; see Eph.4:11; 1Cor.12:28f; Mt.28:18f)