2016 Fall Semester

Foundations

# Restoration

## What is the Church?

### Definition

#### The church is the community of all true believers for all time.

##### Ephesians 5:25 – “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

#### The church is made up of all true believers in the New Testament and also those in the Old.

##### Ekklesia – a gathering, or more literally, “the called out ones.”

##### This is the same word used several times in the Old Testament to refer to gatherings of Israel, for example in Deuteronomy 4:10, Moses tells the people of Israel that God told him to “Gather the people to me that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live upon the Earth.”

##### In the New Testament, Stephen speaks of Moses as “being with the church in the wilderness.” – Acts 7:38

### Invisible Church

#### In its true spiritual reality as the fellowship of all genuine believers, the church is invisible. This is because we cannot see the spiritual condition of people’s hearts. Only God can do that.

##### 2 Timothy 2:19 – “The Lord knows who are his.”

##### Only God knows with certainty and without error who are actually believers.

##### The invisible church will be made visible when we gather in heaven

###### Revelation 7:9-10 – “After this I looked and saw a multitude too large to count, from every nation and tribe and people and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. [And](http://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [they cried out](http://biblehub.com/greek/2896.htm) [in a loud voice:](http://biblehub.com/greek/5456.htm) [‘](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[Salvation](http://biblehub.com/greek/4991.htm) [to](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [our](http://biblehub.com/greek/1473.htm) [God,](http://biblehub.com/greek/2316.htm) [who](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [sits](http://biblehub.com/greek/2521.htm) [on](http://biblehub.com/greek/1909.htm) [the](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [throne,](http://biblehub.com/greek/2362.htm) [and](http://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm) [to the](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm) [Lamb!’”](http://biblehub.com/greek/721.htm)

#### Definition

##### The invisible church is the church as God sees it.

### Visible Church

#### Definition

##### The visible church is the church as Christians on earth see it.

##### In this sense the visible church includes all who profess faith in Christ and give evidence of that faith in their lives.

##### We’re not talking about how anybody in the world might see it, but only those who are believers and have an understanding of the difference between believers and unbelievers.

##### The world has some inaccurate views of the visible church.

#### Paul writes many of his letters to the visible church in each community

##### “To the church of God which is at Corinth.” – 1 Corinthians 1:2

##### “To the church of the Thessalonians.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:3

##### “To Philemon…and Apphia…and Archippus…and to the church in your house.” – Philemon 1-2

#### Paul certainly realized that there were unbelievers in some of these churches, but since he didn’t know who they were he just addressed the whole visible church.

#### Just like we do on Sunday mornings, I always open up the service by saying, “Good morning, church.” I understand that there may certainly be some unbelievers in the room, but I don’t know who they are. So instead, I address the visible church, the group of people who have gathered together to worship God and profess their faith in Him.

#### The reality is that there are some members of the visible church, who gather together to profess faith in Christ and worship him, who are not members of the invisible church.

##### Acts 20:29-30 – “Fierce wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.”

##### Matthew 7:15-16 – “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”

## The Marks/Purposes of the Church

### Ministry to God: Worship

#### In relationship to God, the church’s purpose is to worship Him.

##### Colossians 3:16 - “Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

##### Ephesians 1:12 – “we who are appointed in Christ should live for the praise of His glory.”

##### Worship in the church is not merely a preparation for something else. There is a tendency to view worship on Sunday’s as a means of refreshing us to then go out and perform and really do the work of the Lord. But understood rightly, worship in and of itself is a way that we fulfill a major purpose of the church. We were put here and called into this body for the purpose of worshiping Him.

#### We exist to glorify God

##### This is our avenue by which we fulfill this mark and purpose of the church.

##### This is done on Sunday, the day the Lord was resurrected and it also includes the preaching of the Word and taking communion.

###### Acts 20:7 – “On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul talked with them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.”

##### Singing is also considered part of our worship services

###### Ephesians 5:19 – when you meet together you should “address one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your hearts.”

##### Giving is part of the worship service

###### “Now about the collection for the saints, you are to do as I directed the churches of Galatia: On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.” – 1 Corinthians 16:1-2

#### Sacraments vs. Ordinances

#### Baptism

##### Mode is Immersion

###### The Greek word “baptizo” literally means to plunge, dip, or immerse something in water. This should be the end of the argument.

###### Mark 1:10 says that when Jesus was baptized, “he came up out of the water.” If he only needed to be sprinkled, then why make a scene about getting in the water? Standing beside the water would have made more sense, particularly given that multitudes of people were coming for baptism.

###### John 3:23 says, “John was also baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there.”

###### Immersion is the most parallel illustration to what baptism is supposed to represent, which is burial and resurrection with Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 – “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

##### The subjects of baptism are those who profess faith in Christ

###### The pattern revealed at several places in the New Testament is that only those who give a believable profession of faith should be baptized. This view is often called “believers’ baptism,” since it holds that only those who have themselves believed in Christ (or, more precisely, those who have given reasonable evidence of believing in Christ) should be baptized. This is because baptism, which is a symbol of beginning the Christian life should only be given to those who have in fact begun the Christian life.

###### We see that baptism follows profession in many places in the New Testament

Acts 2:41 – “Those who received his word were baptized.”

Acts 8:12 – “When they believed Phillip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women.”

#### The Lord’s Supper

##### This is an ordinance given to us by the Lord himself

###### Matthew 26:26-29 - “Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

###### 1 Corinthians 11:25 – “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

##### The meaning of the Lord’s Supper

###### Christ’s death – when the bread is broken it symbolizes the breaking of Christ’s body for us, and when the cup is poured out it symbolizes the pouring out of Christ’s blood for us. This is why participating in the Lord’s Supper is also a kind of proclamation

1 Corinthians 11:26 – “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

###### The fact that it’s a proclamation of the Lord’s death and the fact that we ingest these elements gives another meaning to the supper: it shows our participation in the benefits of Christ’s death.

###### Spiritual Nourishment – Taking the Lord’s Supper and dwelling on what it means can provide a form of spiritual nourishment to us. Jesus alludes to this

John 6:53-57 – “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me.”

###### Unity of believers

1 Corinthians 10:17 – “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

###### When all of this is taken together, we understand that the Lord’s Supper is more than just a memorial service, although it is that. It is a proclamation. We announce that we have accepted Christ as Lord, we are recommitting again our allegiance to Him, we are trusting in the benefits of His life and death on our behalf, and we are all unified in our pursuit of this One Lord, Jesus Christ.

###### “The Lord’s Supper is Jesus’ sign in bread and wine of his presence with us, of his dawning kingdom. Every time we gather together to eat bread and drink wine together, we hear Jesus announcing, ‘Your sensory appetites are real and good and created, and they are pointing beyond themselves to something beyond all you could ask for or even imagine.’ The Lord’s table, then, isn’t just a visual aid to remind us, as though it were a memory-jogging tool. As we gather together around the Table, we are being trained to eat at the “big table” in Jerusalem. And we’re announcing to ourselves, and to the satanic powers in the air around us, what’s really true. ‘Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die” is a sham. The alternative is not a refusal to eat, drink, and be merry. That would be ingratitude. Instead, with the resurrected Jesus we sing out, ‘Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for yesterday we were dead.’” – Russell Moore

##### Who should participate in the Lord’s Supper?

###### Only those who believe in Christ should participate in the Lord’s supper. Whereas baptism is a means of publicly professing to the world that you have begun to walk with Christ, the Lord’s Supper is a means of publicly professing that you continue to walk with Christ, for all of the symbolic reasons that we just talked about.

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 – “For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.”

###### Participants should examine themselves before taking the supper, lest they take it in an unworthy manner.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 - “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself.”

### Ministry to Believers: Nurture

#### Fellowship

##### Throughout the entire New Testament, fellowship amongst believers is described as the Greek word koinonia, or literally as “having or holding all things in common.”.

##### In Acts 5 remember everybody sold all of their possessions, put everything in the communal pot and distributed to anyone as they had need. It says several times in Acts 5 that everyone had all things in common.

##### One anothering

###### 1 Corinthians 12:26 – “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”

###### In the church, your hurt is shared by everyone, relieving the pain. And your joy is shared with everyone, magnifying joy for all involved.

###### Galatians 6:2 – “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

###### Hebrews 10:24-25 – “Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

###### This includes physical needs as well – 1 John 3:17 – “If anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”

###### Acts 4:34 – “There was not a needy person among them.”

##### Working together

#### Discipleship

##### Colossians 1:28 – “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.”

###### “Baptism is the starting line, not the finishing line.” – Robby Gallaty

##### Ephesians 4:12-13 – “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”

###### Ministry is the pathway to maturity, not the other way around.

##### Ephesians 4:16 – “from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

###### This is where the church has dropped the ball. But it’s not just church leaders that have neglected this, it’s also church members. This is a failure on all of our part to neglect the Great Commission.

##### Matthew 28:18-20 – “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

##### Making disciples.

#### The Family of God

##### Both of these responsibilities for fellowship make clear the language that the Bible uses to describe the church as the family of God.

###### 1 Timothy 5:1-2 – “Do not rebuke an older man but exhort him as you would a father; treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity.”

###### Many times God is referred to as our heavenly Father, twice in Hebrews we are referred to as brothers of Christ, and one of those instances, Jesus himself calls us his brothers.

###### 2 Corinthians 6:18 – “I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and my daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”

###### Because of this, the church is place where you belong. It’s not just a service that you attend or a building that you go to on Sunday mornings. The biblical understanding of the church is not that it’s compartmentalized and separated from the “rest of our lives”, but rather that it is through the context of the church, the body, the family of God, that all of our lives are to be lived.

#### Church discipline

##### This leads us to a discussion about church discipline. Just as a family is responsible for the discipline of its members, the same is true for the church.

##### Church discipline is a means of preserving the purity of the church and it is without a doubt the most neglected practice in the global church today.

##### Jesus outlines for us how this should be done in Matthew 18:15-17

###### Matthew 18:15-17 – “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

###### Notice the progression of discipline here

Knowledge of the sin should be kept to the smallest group possible

Disciplinary measures should increase in strength until there is a solution

But also, repentance should be sought and welcomed as soon as it occurs.

2 Corinthians 2:7-8 – “You should rather turn to forgive and comfort him or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow…I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.”

##### Church discipline is carried out to reflect the character of the Father

###### Hebrews 12:6 – “For the Lord disciplines those whom he loves.”

###### Hebrews 12:8 – “If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

##### This is part of being in the family of God, and to refuse it is to say that you are not part of the family.

###### 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 – “For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? God judges those outside.”

### Ministry to the World: Evangelism and Mercy

#### We are to make disciples of all nations. This is the primary ministry that the church has to the world. We declare to them the only hope that exists and that’s the hope of eternal life that’s found in the resurrected Christ.

##### Matthew 28:18 – “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

##### If we are going to all the nations, then we have to be evangelistic.

##### Acts 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

###### Jerusalem – this was their immediate vicinity. This was their home and the community they were most familiar with. This would be like the greater Dayton area for us.

###### Judea – this was the larger surrounding area, most akin to the state of Ohio for us.

###### Samaria – this was the most distasteful area for the disciples to evangelize. The Samaritans were the most difficult to love, they were considered somewhat rivals and were often spoken of very poorly by the Jews. Think of Michigan.

##### “The Gospel came to you because it was heading to someone else.” – Robby Gallaty

#### We are also supposed to meet the felt needs of those we encounter. Even if they don’t believe in Christ or accept our message.

##### Luke 6:35-36 – “Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your father is merciful.”

##### Luke 4:40 – “Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.”

##### This kind of compassion is rooted in the fact that every person is made in the image of God and is therefore inherently worthy of the respect and dignity of being cared for.

#### Change the world – we are in the business of restoration. Making right what went wrong.