

Ecclesiology, the Study of the Church, Outline, Trending, 11/6/15

1. Meaning of the Church
 - a. Matthew 16:18, founded upon the statement in Matthew 16:16
 - i. "ekklesia", called out public assembly
 1. Jews, Acts 7:38
 2. Civic Gathering, Acts 19:39
 3. Christian church, public assembly called out by God for worship
 - b. 1 Corinthians 1:2, 16:19, local assembly of professing Christians consisting of
 - i. Believers
 - ii. Make-believers
 - iii. Matthew 13:36-43, as illustrative of the point
 - c. Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, universal church
 - i. Body of Christ, all believers are members, Ephesians 4:4-6
 - ii. Made up of all born again, Spirit-baptized New Testament believers
 1. John 3:6, spiritual birth
 2. Ephesians 1:13, Spirit baptism accompanies salvation
2. Dispensation of the Church
 - a. Not revealed in the Old Testament Scriptures, Ephesians 3:1-6
 - b. Began at Pentecost (Matthew 16:18 as future; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 11:15-16)
3. The Church is not Israel
 - a. Covenant relationship is different (Galatians 3:23-25), law vs. grace
 - b. Romans 11 draws a distinction between the church and Israel, we reject replacement theology, the teaching that the church replaced Israel
 - i. Promises made to Israel remain unfulfilled
 - ii. Messianic Kingdom (Context for Ezekiel 40-48, for instance)
 - c. What about Galatians 6:15-16, "Israel of God"
 - i. These are New Testament Jewish believers in Messiah, context is king here.
4. How the Church is Built (Foundational verse of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 3:11)
 - a. Cornerstone is Jesus Christ, Ephesians 2:20
 - b. Apostles and Prophets, foundational ministry of leading the infant church on earth after Pentecost, Ephesians 2:20
 - i. Ministry fulfilled with the writing of the New Testament Scriptures
 - c. Scripture, God's objective truth
 - i. Salvation, 2 Timothy 3:15
 - ii. Christian maturity, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - d. Role of God the Holy Spirit
 - i. Indwelling believers, 1 Corinthians 3:16
 - ii. Guiding believers, John 16:7-14
 1. Conviction of sin
 2. Leading towards righteous fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)
 3. Magnifying God the Son

5. Mission of the Church
 - a. Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20
 - b. Proclamation of the Gospel, Acts 1:8
 - i. Object of Christian faith, John 3:16
 - ii. Content of Christian faith, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - c. Litmus test of ministry, to what extent does the church meet the mission
6. Purpose of the Local Church
 - a. Acts 2:42
 - i. Apostle's doctrine, 2 Timothy 4:2
 - ii. Fellowship, Hebrews 10:24
 - iii. Breaking of Bread, Acts 20:7
 - iv. Prayer, James 5:13-14
 - b. Some other purposes
 - i. Discipline, Matthew 18:17
 - ii. Accountability, 1 Peter 5:1-5
 - iii. Christian love and Edification, Hebrews 10:24
 - iv. Context in which spiritual gifts are used, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
7. Necessity of Participation in a local assembly
 - a. Christ's institution, Matthew 16:18
 - b. Direct Command, Hebrews 10:25
 - c. Biblical Precedent, 1 Corinthians 1:2
 - d. Unified corporate public witness, Matthew 16:18
8. Conclusion: The church universal and local should be:
 - a. Christ-centered
 - b. Bible-based
 - c. Spirit-led
 - d. Gospel-driven
 - e. Outward-focused
 - f. Prayer-full
 - g. Publicly-witnessing