

V. CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

V. A. WHAT IS "CHURCH"?

Greek terms:

κυριακον (kuriakon) = that which b_____ to the L_____

εκκλησια (ekklesia) = c_____ (literally, a group
called o_____ for a special p_____

recall the "you" problem (συ & υμεις)

Biblical and theological metaphors for the church

the b_____ of C_____

a s_____ building with Christ as the chief c_____

the b_____ of Christ

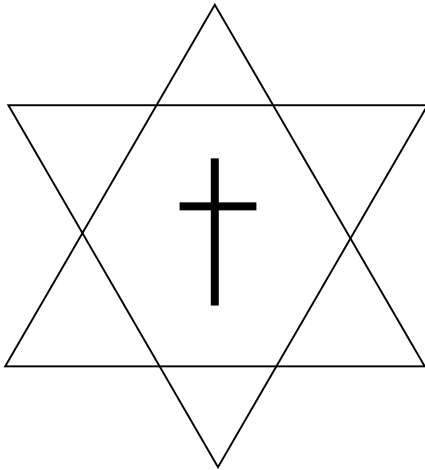
The Church Visible and Invisible

A_____ vs. A_____ disciples

The Church Militant, Penitent, and Triumphant Ephesians 6.10-18

V. B. MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE CHURCH

Myth:	Truth:
The church is a building	1. Church is p_____
"Church" is one hour for worship	2. Church is so much m_____
Church makes me comfortable	3. Church helps me g_____ in the Lord
It's my church	4. It's C_____ church
It's just me and God	5. It's u_____ and God
I serve God in my own way	6. We serve God i_____ and t_____ the church.



<p>What you get:</p> <p>W _____</p> <p>F _____</p> <p>D _____</p> <p>What you give:</p> <p>S _____</p> <p>S _____</p> <p>T _____</p>

The church is not a s_____ club

κοινωνία (*koinōnia*) = fellowship, sharing, communion

sharing in the d_____ of Jesus; it is an o_____ relationship with God
(I John 1.5-6)

Christian growth: from m_____ to w_____ to H_____

It is through other Christians that we g_____.
Ephesians 4.11-16

It is through other Christians that we really e_____ Christ
I John 4.7-21

It is through other Christians that we g_____.
Ephesians 4.11-16

V. C. CHURCH GOVERNMENT

An office is a p_____ established in the congregation to provide for a particular ministry.

Offices carry specific duties that the office-h_____ must fill.

We start by noting that the Church is **not** a democracy; a church is a theocracy

δemos (demos) = people

θεος (theos) = God

κρατος (kratos) = rule

Governing Offices:

C _____

B _____

D _____

P _____

E _____

H _____

PASTOR shepherd (modern equivalent = c _____)

What the Bible says a Pastor should do:

1. E _____ the flock

Ephesians 4.7, 11-12:

Christ gave special graces to:

- Apostles
 - Prophets
 - Evangelists
 - Pastors/teachers
- } These roles fulfilled by Scripture
(see II Timothy 3.16-17)

To equip God's People

to do the work of m _____

So a local church may have only one pastor , but many ministers

So what should Pastors do?

1. K _____ the Bible

II Timothy 2.15: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2. C _____ that Word in preaching and teaching

II Timothy 4.2: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.

3. H _____ others in counseling

I Thessalonians 5.14: And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

4. L _____ the flock

The Bible is filled with examples of how God used individuals to lead His people

5. P_____ the flock

Acts 20.28-29: Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God,¹ which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

ELDERS (πρεσβυτερος) = literally, gray beard; those who are:

s_____ mature

p_____ mature

c_____ to God's work in the church

ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ = overseer or bishop

What the Bible says Elders should do:

Pastor + Elders = B_____ of Elders: the g_____ advantage

Who Oversees the Pastor & Elders?

Christ is the Head of the church

Episcopal System	Presbyterian System	Congregational System
Hierarchy of b_____	G_____ oversight	L_____ oversight
Roman Catholics Episcopalians Methodists	Presbyterians	Congregationalists Baptists Independent Churches

V. D. WHY IS GOVERNANCE IMPORTANT?

S_____

S_____

S_____

S_____

V. E. READINGS

V. E. 1. WCF on The Church

Chapter 25: The Church

1. **The catholic (that is, universal) church, which is invisible, consists of all the elect who have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ its head.** This church is his bride, his body, and the fullness of him who fills all in all.
2. **The visible church, which is also catholic** under the gospel (that is, not confined to one nation, as it was before under the law), **consists of all those throughout the world who profess the true religion**, together with their children. It is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.
3. To this universal, visible church Christ has given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the age. For this purpose he makes these means effectual by his own presence and Spirit, according to his promise.
4. This universal church has been sometimes more and sometimes less visible. **Particular churches, which are members of this universal church, are more or less pure** to the extent to which the doctrine of the gospel is taught and embraced, the ordinances are administered, and public worship is performed more or less purely in them.
5. The purest churches on earth are subject to both mixture and error, and some have so degenerated that they have become no churches of Christ at all, but rather synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there shall always be a church on earth to worship God according to his will.
6. There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome be its head in any sense.

Chapter 26: The Communion of Saints

1. All saints—who are united to Jesus Christ their head by his Spirit and by faith—have fellowship with him in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory. And, being united to one another in love, they participate in each other's gifts and graces and are obligated to perform those public and private duties which lead to their mutual good, both inwardly and outwardly.
2. **It is the duty of professing saints to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God and in performing such other spiritual services as help them to edify one another.** It is their duty also to come to the aid of one another in material things according to their various abilities and necessities. As God affords opportunity, this communion is to be extended to all those in every place who call on the name of the Lord Jesus.
3. The communion which the saints have with Christ does not make them in any way partakers of the substance of his Godhead, or in any respect equal with Christ. To affirm either is irreverent and blasphemous. Nor does their fellowship with one another as saints take away or infringe upon any person's title to, or right to, his own goods and possessions.

V. E. 2. The Church as the Body of Christ

Matthew 16.18-19: And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

John 10.14: I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me--

John 13.34-35: A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 17.20-23: My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Romans 12.4-8: For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.** If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

I Corinthians 1.2: To the church [congregation] of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-- their Lord and ours:

I Corinthians 3.16-17: Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

I Corinthians 12.27-31: Now **you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.** And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

Ephesians 1.18-23: I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over**

everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 4.11-16: It was he [Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and **some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, **speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**

Ephesians 5.23.32: For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now **as the church submits to Christ,** so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- for **we are members of his body.** "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery-- but **I am talking about Christ and the church.**

I Peter 2.9-12: But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,** that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Romans 13.7-10: Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

I Corinthians 1.10: I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Ephesians 4.1-6: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one

body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4.32: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3.12-16: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Hebrews 3.12-14: See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

Hebrews 10.24-25: And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

James 4.10-12: Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you-- who are you to judge your neighbor?

I Peter 1.22-23: Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

I John 4.7-21: Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God... This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.... This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.... We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

V. E. 3. Church Tasks

Matthew 7.21-23: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

Matthew 28.18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you**. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 2.42: They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Ephesians 6.10-18: Finally, **be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God**, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For **our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil** in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Chapter 30: Church Discipline

1. The Lord Jesus, as King and Head of his church, has appointed a government in it, to be administered by church officers, distinct from the civil authorities.

2. To these church officers he has committed the keys of the kingdom of heaven. For this reason they have authority to retain and to remit sins, to shut the kingdom against the unrepentant both by the Word and by censures, and to open it to repentant sinners by the ministry of the gospel and by releasing from censures, as the occasion requires.

3. Church discipline is necessary for reclaiming and gaining fellow Christians who are guilty of offenses, for deterring others from committing similar offenses, for purging the leaven which might infect the whole lump, for vindicating the honor of Christ and the holy profession of the gospel, and for averting the wrath of God which might justly fall on the church if it should allow his covenant and its seals to be profaned by notorious and obstinate offenders.

4. For the better attaining of these purposes, the officers of the church are to proceed by admonition, by suspension from the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for a time, and by excommunication from the church, according to the nature of the offense and the degree of the person's guilt.

V. E. 4. OT Examples of Church Offices

Moses & Elders

Exodus 3.7-12: The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt.... So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" And God said, "I will be with you."

Exodus 18.13-26: The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening. When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?" Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and laws." Moses' father-in-law replied, "... The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone. ... You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform. But select capable men from all the people-- men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain-- and appoint them as officials ... Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you. If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied." Moses ... chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people... They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

Numbers 11.16-17: The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

Judges

Judges 2.16-19: Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved [Israel] out of the hands of these raiders. Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. ... Whenever the LORD raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the LORD had compassion on them as they groaned under those who oppressed and afflicted them. But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their fathers, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways.

Kings

II Sam 4.3: When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

V. E. 5. NT on Church Leadership

Pastors / Elders / Deacons

Mark 9.33-35: They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Acts 6.1-6: In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit