

Systematic Theology 2 (TH4)

Doctrine of the Church

May 22, 2014

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Lakeside institute of Theology**



Systematic Theology 2 (TH4)

Apr. 4 – Re-Intro to Systematic Theology; God's Providence

Apr. 11 – Doctrine of Humanity

Apr. 18 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr. 25 – Doctrines of Sin & Redemption

May 2 – **No Class**

May 9 – **No Class**

May 16 – Doctrines of Sanctification & Glorification

May 23 – Doctrine of the Church

May 30 – Doctrines of the Sacraments & Gifts of the Holy Spirit

June 6 – Doctrine of the Future; Final Exam

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

Ecclesiology deals with the origins of the Christian Church, its relationship to Jesus, its role in salvation, its polity, destiny and leadership.

From ***ekklesia*** (“gathering” or “congregation”) and ***-logia*** (“words” or knowledge”).

Kuriake (“belonging to the Lord) is the source of our words “church,” “Kirk,” “Kerk,” and “Kirche.”

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

- WHO or WHAT is the Church?
 - What is the relationship of the individual believer to the Church?
 - What does the Church DO?
 - What is the authority of the Church?
 - How should the Church be governed?
 - How does the Church's New Covenant relate to the covenants between God and the people of Israel, as expressed in Scripture?
 - What is the ultimate destiny of the Church?
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Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

➤ WHO or WHAT is the Church?

❖ The “**Invisible Church**” – the global community of those who by faith have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
(communio fidelium)

The Christian Church is the fellowship of all those who, in response to the apostolic message proclaimed in the Word and sacraments, confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; a faith that is the gift of God's electing grace and that works by love, this love transcending the barriers of class, race, sex, culture, and nation so that the church may be likened to the one body having many members under Christ who is the head.

Richard Baxter, 17th Century

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

➤ WHO or WHAT is the Church?

❖ The “**Invisible Church**” – the global community of those who by faith have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (*communio fidelium*)

❖ The “**Visible Church**” – the external hierarchy, structure, activities and architecture – both locally and globally – that can be seen by all. (*mater fidelium*)

“The congregation of all the Faithful, who, being baptized, profess the same faith, partake in the same sacraments, and are governed by their lawful pastors, as one visible head on earth.”

“Each element in this definition is meant to exclude... apostates and heretics who do not profess the same Christian faith, non-Christians who do not receive the same sacraments, and schismatics who are not submissive to the Church's lawful pastors under the Bishop of Rome.”

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

- The Universal Church, vs the Local Church.
 - The Church, in all its manifestations, is part of the Body which is called forth by Jesus.
- Purpose of the Church
 - To share the Good News, making disciples for Jesus: the Great Commission – Mt. 28:19-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

- The Universal Church, vs the Local Church.
 - The Church, in all its manifestations, is part of the Body which is called forth by Jesus.
- Purpose of the Church
 - To share the Good News, making disciples for Jesus: the Great Commission – Mt. 28:19-20
 - To bring Glory to God – 1 Cor. 10:31
 - Worship (including the Sacraments)
 - Instruction
 - Fellowship
 - Service
- Structure and authority in the Church
 - Episcopal; Presbyterian; Congregational

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

- The Creation of the Church
 - In the call of Abram
 - At the Day of Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

Acts 2:1-5

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:40-47

Doctrine of the Church, or Ecclesiology

- The Creation of the Church
 - In the call of Abram
 - At the Day of Pentecost
 - The Authority and Destiny of the Church
 - The Church Militant
 - The Church Triumphant
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The Four Marks (or “Attributes”) of the Church

One – the followers of Jesus Christ are ONE in their belief in one God & one Lord, Jesus Christ.

Holy – the followers of Jesus Christ are HOLY, not meaning without sin, but rather that they are set apart for a special purpose by and for God.

Catholic – the followers of Jesus Christ are the Church “catholic” – or “universal” – made up of all people everywhere and at all times who believe in and profess Jesus as Lord.

Apostolic – the Church is based on the continuity of the teaching of the Apostles of Jesus, especially as recorded and taught in Scripture.