

“The Glorious Church”

Sermons on the Bride of Christ, the Church

“The church is not a response to the grace of God but an act of the grace of God.”¹

¹ Carl Trueman, foreword, *The Church of Christ* by James Bannerman (Banner of Truth Trust, Carlisle, PA; 1960), xiii.

The Church of the Lord has endured since the creation of the world. It has had seasons of prosperity and growth as well as seasons of testing and contracting. Nonetheless, the one earthly institution that has not and will never fail is the Lord's Church.

The Bride of Christ is worth our study so that we can know more of the will of God for us. In this booklet, you will be able to take notes for our topical mini-series on the Church. In this nine sermon series, we will explore questions like "What is the Church?" to "Who are the people of the Church?" to "What makes a biblical church?"

Our hope is that you will see more of the Bride's beauty, enjoy more of the communion of saints and have more courage to invite others to come and see.

Heaven soon,

The Session
Christ Our Hope Church, 2026

Sermon #1: “What is the Church?”

Why does it matter that we study the Church?

Definition: “Church”

1. The Church is a “Divine Idea”
Ephesians 1:3-6; 4:4-6

2. The Church is “Distinct from the world”
1 Peter 2:9-10

Notes.

Sermon #2: “What is the Church in the world to do?”

Why is it important to get the purpose of the Church correct?

How do we know when the Church has put down its particular mission in favor of another?

1. To worship the Lord
Exodus 34; Psalms 22, 29, 86, 95, 96; Matthew 2:2; John 4:20—24;
Revelation 22:3

2. To witness the covenant of grace
Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20

Notes.

Sermon #3: “What makes the ministry of the Church effective?”

What does it mean Christ is our “Mediator”?

Why is Christ in His offices important to the church?

Ephesians 4:15-16

1. Christ as King over the Church

WLC Q.45²

2. Christ as Prophet of the Church

WLC Q.43

² “WLC” is *Westminster Larger Catechism*.

3. Christ as Priest for the Church
WLC Q.44

Notes.

Sermon #4: “Who is the Church?”

What is the difference between the “visible” and “invisible” Church?

1. Those in covenant with the Lord Jesus
WCF 25.1³; Genesis 17:7 // Acts 2:39

³ “WCF” is the *Westminster Confession of Faith*.

2. The ordained officers of the Church
Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5

Notes.

Sermon #5: “What makes a biblical Church?” Part 1: preaching

1. What is preaching?

2. Why does the Lord use preaching?

2 Corinthians 5:20; Acts 20:27; Ephesians 4:11-12

3. How is preaching effective?

It is God’s word

Isaiah 55:11; Romans 10:14-15

It is how we listen
Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 32:47

Notes.

Sermon #6: “What makes a biblical Church?” Part 2: the sacraments

Why do biblical churches faithfully present the sacraments?

1. What is a sacrament?
WLC Q.162

2. What are the sacraments for the Church?
WLC Q.164
Old Testament

New Testament

What meanings continue from OT to NT?

What about them is different since the coming of Christ?

3. How do the sacraments work in the lives of those who receive them?
WLC Q.161

What about baptism?
WLC Q.167; WSC⁴ Q.94

What about the Lord's Supper?

4. Who is to receive the sacraments?
Baptism:
Acts 2:38-39, 41; Genesis 17:7

Lord's Supper:
1 Corinthians 11:27-31

⁴ "WSC" is *Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Notes.

Sermon #7: “What makes a biblical Church?” Part 3: Church discipline

1. “Proactive discipline”: the “means of grace”

“Proactive discipline”

Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 3:1-3

Personal holiness

Colossians 3:5-15

Corporate means of Grace:

a. Preaching

b. Corporate prayer

c. The sacraments

d. Fellowship

2. “Reactive discipline”: “corrective conversations”
Matthew 18:15-20; Luke 17:3-4

Notes.

Sermon #8: “What will empower the Church to do its ministry?”

1. The Person of the Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 8:16; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:16

How will His personhood empower the Church to do its ministry?

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:3; Psalm 33:6; Exodus 28:3; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 10:15

Notes.

Sermon #9: “What is in store for the Church?”

1. Rewards from our Lord

Mark 10:30; Matthew 5:12; Colossians 3:24

2. Relief from our war

Hebrews 12:4; Galatians 6:6-9; 1 Timothy 6:12; Revelation 12

Notes.