

DOGMA :: THE CHURCH

VARIOUS SCRIPTURES

NOVEMBER 27, 2011

MESSAGE 7

REVIEW:

- ❖ The Bible is the inerrant, authoritative Word of God.
- ❖ There is one God existing as Trinity.
- ❖ God the Father knows what's best, gets his way, and chose to make you.
- ❖ Jesus is fully God, fully human, past atonement, present advocate, and coming king.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit enables us to live the life God created us to live.
- ❖ People are born spiritually dead, but God regenerates all who surrender to Jesus.

DOGMA: THE CHURCH

The Universal Church is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. A local church is an organized company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, work, edification, and fellowship. God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world (Matthew 16:16-18, Acts 2:38-41, Ephesians 2:19-22, Ephesians 4:12-16, Ephesians 5:25-27, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Hebrews 10:24-25).

LCC Statement of Faith**QUICK BULLETS:**

- ❖ Universal Church: all the regenerated are **one body** in Christ.
- ❖ Local Church: organized, baptized believers, with a **purpose**.
- ❖ The Church: God's **Plan A** for saving people.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Matthew 16:13-20 (p. 681)

Key word: ἐκκλησία / **ekklesia**

AN EKKLESIA IS A SOCIO-POLITICAL GROUP OF PEOPLE WITH A WELL-DEFINED MEMBERSHIP // CITIZENS OF A STATE // JESUS' DISCIPLES ARE THE CITIZENS OF HIS KINGDOM.
"MY CHURCH" IS SINGULAR // NO ISOLATED PERSON OR GROUP CAN "BE THE CHURCH"
IT IS BY DEFINITION [[ALL]] DISCIPLES!

WHO'S IN?

Matthew 28:16-20 (p. 694)

BAPTIZED, TAUGHT, OBEDIENT, GO-ERS

Acts 2:36-41 (p. 757)

THOSE WHO REPENTED AND WERE BAPTIZED WERE "ADDED"
SOMEONE WAS KEEPING TRACK! // PROBABLY NOT PETER, MAYBE MATTHEW / TAX COLLECTOR

MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

Ephesians 2:11-22 (p. 811)

JESUS DIED TO FORM ONE BODY, ONE HOUSEHOLD, ONE CITIZENSHIP.
IF CHRISTIANS ARE NOT VISIBLY UNIFIED, THEN GOD APPEARS VISIBLY DIVIDED.
TEAMM (IF YOU GO TO ANY BIBLE TEACHING CHURCH IN THIS TOWN, I'M LIKELY TO KNOW ABOUT IT!)
• MORE PRACTICAL: STARTING POINT CLASS STARTS IN ONE WEEK. •

Ephesians 4:11-16 (p. 812)

1. LEADERS ARE GOD'S GIFT TO US TO PREPARE US
2. WE ARE GOD'S GIFT TO EACH OTHER TO BUILD OTHERS UP
3. THE GOAL IS UNIFIED MATURITY.
ILL: WHEN PEOPLE LEAVE A CHURCH IT'S USUALLY FOR RELATIONSHIP REASONS / MARY WANTED TO LEAD THE MINISTRY AND I SAID NO.

THE REMAINING JOB OF RECONCILIATION

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (p. 803)

BE RECONCILED BY CHRIST'S ATONEMENT!!
BE AN AGENT OF RECONCILIATION.

BEYOND DOGMA:**THE CHURCH IS THE ONLY PEOPLE OF GOD.****TAKE IT HOME**

2012 IS THE YEAR OF TRULY ORGANIZING OUR MEMBERSHIP AND DOING THE WORK OF DISCIPLESHIP.

SO, IF YOU ARE CONVINCED THAT THE CHURCH IS GOD'S ANSWER FOR THE WORLD THEN:
GIVE FINANCIALLY (CHRISTMAS OFFERING)
SERVE FAITHFULLY (CREATIVE, WORSHIP, AV, WELCOME, KIDOPOLIS)
INVITE LIBERALLY (EVERYONE IS WELCOME)
ENTER DISCIPLESHIP (BE A COACH OR GET A COACH)

TEXT YOUR QUESTIONS: (765) JESUS-99 • [537-8799]