

January 17, 2024

Introduction to the Church & Its Mission

Goal for This Week:

To consider how the Church is the primary instrument God has established to carry out the Great Commission.

Other Things to Consider:

Theological Reflection – _____

Because theological reflection should always begin, remain, and end with God, and because God has revealed Himself to us through His Word to transform us to be conformed to the image of His Son (Rom 8:28), theology should not only be intellectual but also *transformational*, which includes our _____ and _____.

Our Ecclesiology and Missiology flow out of our doctrine of God and leads to doxology.

What is the Church?

“Christ’s kingdom rule becomes visible in the local church and the demonstration of that kingdom rule requires a gathering where the saints affirm one another in the gospel and one another’s membership in the gospel” (Leeman, 48).

The Church & The Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew

Matthew 4:17 – “From that time Jesus began to preach saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Matthew 5:3 – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 6:10 – “Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 10:7 – “And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

Matthew 12:27-28 – “And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. (28) But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

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Matthew 13:10-11 – “Then the disciples came and said to him, ‘Why do you speak to them in parables?’ (11) And he answered them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’”

Matthew 13:24,31,33,44,45,47 – All parables about the kingdom of heaven

How does Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 13:24-30 & Matthew 13:36-43?

Matthew 16:18 – “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church [ekklesia], and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:19 – “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 18:17-18 – “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (18) Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

What is the significance of the word ekklesia in Matthew chapter 16 & 18?

What is missions in light of the kingdom of heaven discussion?

Matthew 9:35-38 – “And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. (36) When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. (37) Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; (38) therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

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What role does the church play in missions light of the kingdom of heaven discussion?

Overview of Semester:

- Week 1: Introduction to the Church & Its Mission: What is the Church? / What is Missions? (Hammett, chapters 1-3)
- Week 2: Marks of a Healthy Church Part 1 (Dever, Marks 1-2: Expository Preaching & Gospel Doctrine)
- Week 3: What We Believe: Confessions (Use Timothy & Denise George's book Part 1&3)
- Week 4: Marks of a Healthy Church Part 2 (Dever, Marks 3-4: Conversion/Evangelism & Church Membership)
- Week 5: Church Membership: Baptism & Lord's Supper
- Week 6: Church Membership: Covenanting Together (Use Timothy & Denise George's book Part 2)
- Week 7: Marks of a Healthy Church Part 3 (Dever, Marks 5-6: Church Discipline & Discipleship)
- Week 8: The Local Church Reflecting God's Love & Authority (Leeman, *The Rule of Love*)
- Week 9: Considering the Spiritual Disciplines
- Week 10: Marks of a Healthy Church Part 4 (Dever, Marks 7-8: Church Leadership & Prayer)
- Week 11: Marks of a Healthy Church Part 5 (Dever, Mark 9 – Missions)
- Week 12: "Missions Exists Because Worship Doesn't" (Discuss themes from Piper's book, *Let the Nations Be Glad*)
- Week 13: Missionary Qualification: Who Should Be Sent? // How do you prepare?
- Week 14: The Missionary Task: What Should the Missionary Be Doing? // Church Planting // Preaching // Social Justice

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- Week 15: The Sending Church & The Receiving Church: Who is the Missionary Responsible To?
- Week 16: Considering Missions Around the World: Adoniram Judson and South Asia
- Week 17: Considering Missions Around the World: David Brainard and the New World
- Week 18: Considering Missions Around the World: David Livingstone and Africa

Preparation for Next Week:

Write an answer to this question, “How should our consideration of the church and its mission begin with God, remain with God, and end with God?”

Resources That Will Be Used This Semester:

Akin, Daniel L. *10 Who Changed the World*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

Clark, Elliot. *Mission Affirmed: Recovering The Missionary Motivation of Paul*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022.

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

DeYoung, Kevin and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

George, Timothy and Denise George. *Baptist Confessions, Covenants, and Catechisms*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 1996.

Hammett, John S. *Biblical Foundations for Baptist Churches: A Contemporary Ecclesiology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2005.

Leeman, Jonathan. *One Assembly: Rethinking the Multisite & Multiservice Church Models*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2020.

Leeman, Jonathan and Gregory A. Wills. *The Rule of Love: How the Local Church Should Reflect God’s Love and Authority*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018.

Ott, Craig. *The Church on Mission: A Biblical Vision for Transformation among All People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2019.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010.