

WHAT IS REFORMED THEOLOGY?

Basics of Our Faith





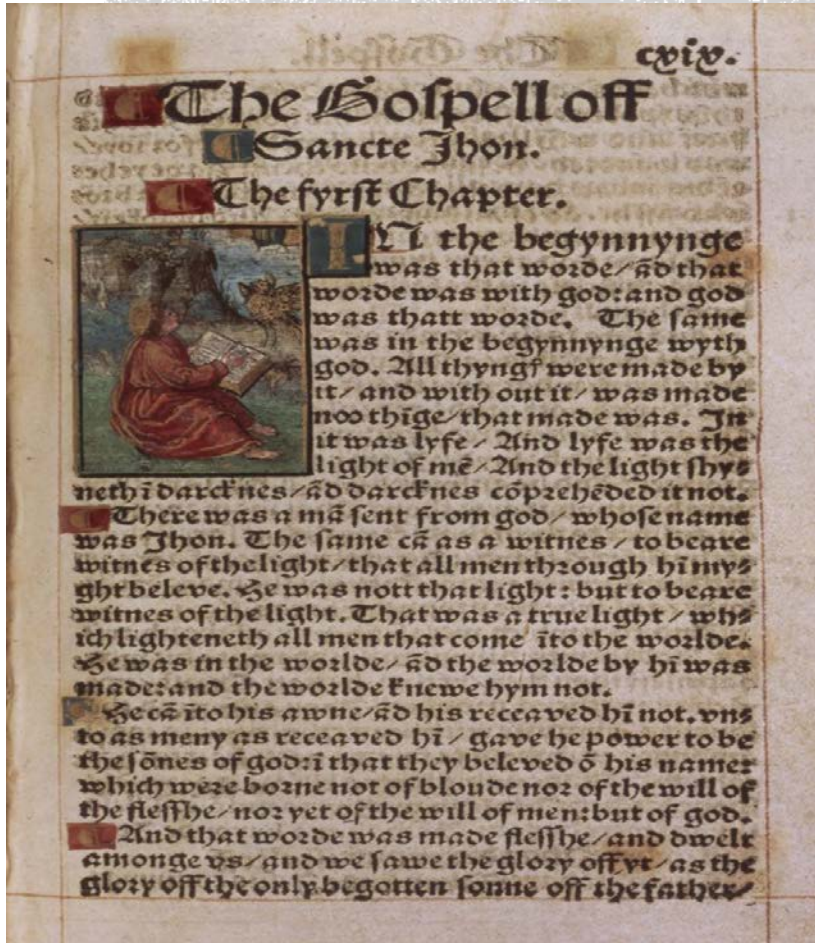
THE CHURCH

Week 10

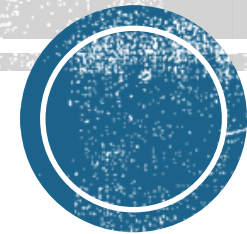


Outline

Class plan



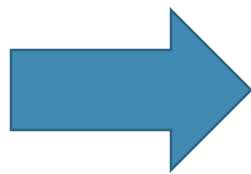
- Definitions in Theology.
- Reformed theology is systematic
- Sola Scriptura
- Covenant Theology
- *Ordo salutis*
- Faith Alone
- Five points of Calvinism I,II
- **The Church**
- Worship
- Baptism
- The Lord's Supper



14 weeks plan

REVIEW: TULIP

1. **Total Depravity**
2. **Unconditional Election**
3. **Limited Atonement**
4. **Irresistible Grace**
5. **Perseverance of the Saints**



God's Sovereign

John Calvin



Portrait attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger



ec·cle·sia *noun* \ə'klēzēə, e'-, -lēzh(ē)ə\

plural **ecclesi-ae**

Full Definition of ECCLESIA



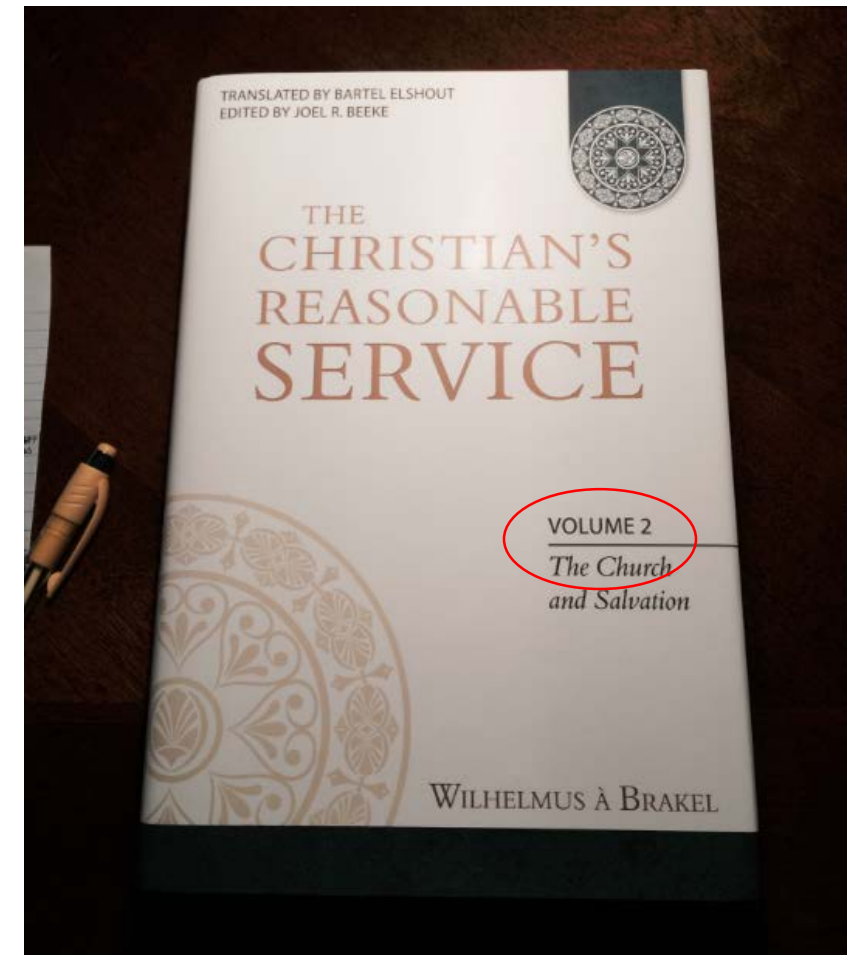
1 : a political assembly of citizens of ancient Greek states;
especially : the periodic meeting of the Athenian citizens for
conducting public business and for considering affairs
proposed by the council

2 : **CHURCH** 4d, 4e

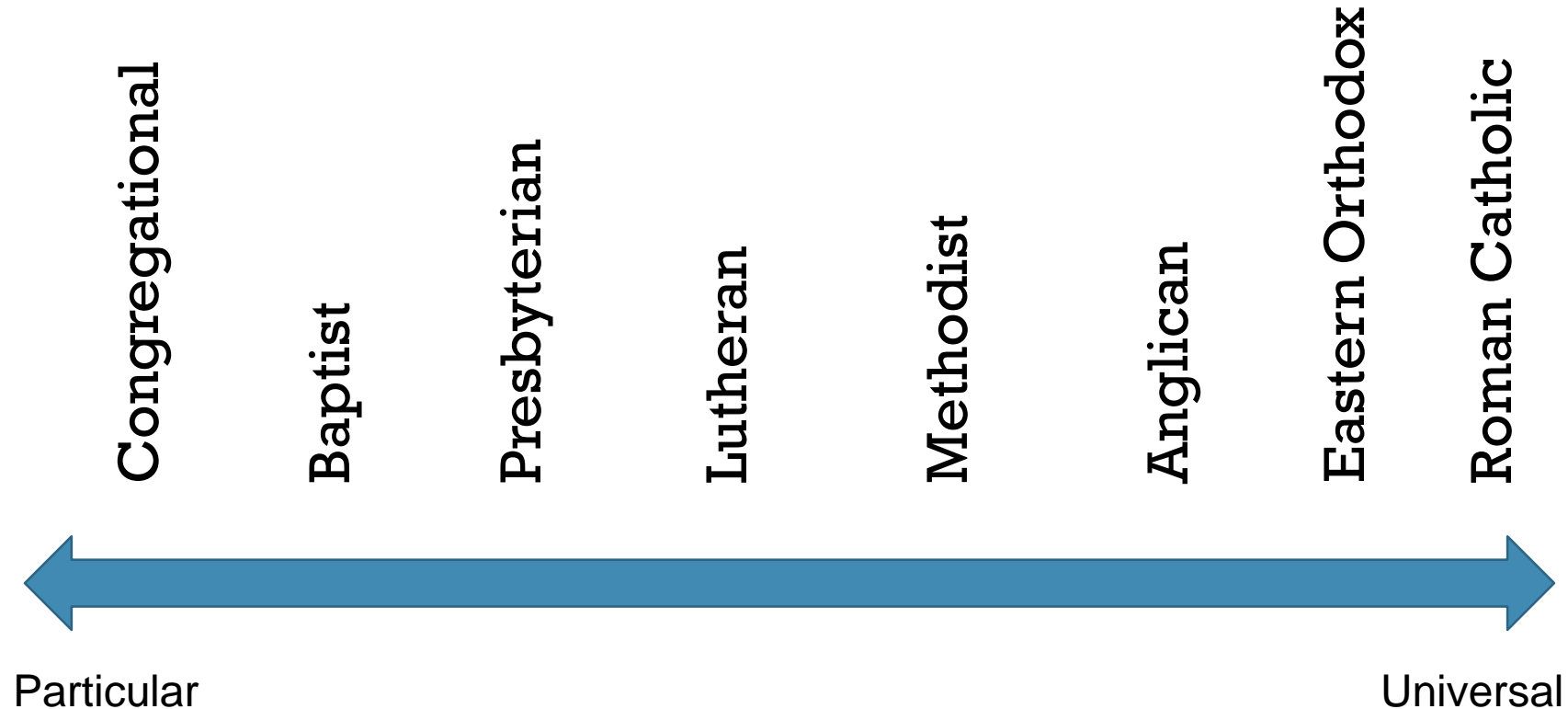
3 : one of the local organizations of the Christadelphians

Origin of ECCLESIA

in sense 1, from Latin, from Greek *ekklēsia*; in other senses,
from Late Latin, church, from Latin



DIFFERENT UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE CHURCH: PARTICULAR TO UNIVERSAL



THE CHURCH

St. Paul's Cathedral:
Emphasis on worship
with all the saints in
Heaven and earth



THE CHURCH

Four marks of the Church in the Nicene Creed. We believe in a:

One (Same doctrine and immutable truth)

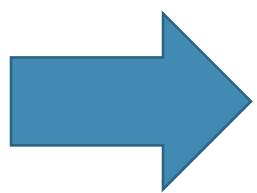
Holy (chosen, set apart, see 1 Pet 2:9)

Catholic (*paneguris* –Heb.12:23- Universal: Triumphant and militant, in doctrine, and not only Israel)

Apostolic Church (Keeping the teachings of the Apostles, true witnesses of Christ)



Eastern Orthodox icon depicting the First Council of Nicaea



Christian and Reformed (back to the origins)



THE COUNCILS

Niceea vs. Arianism (polytheistic):

Negating eternal Jesus

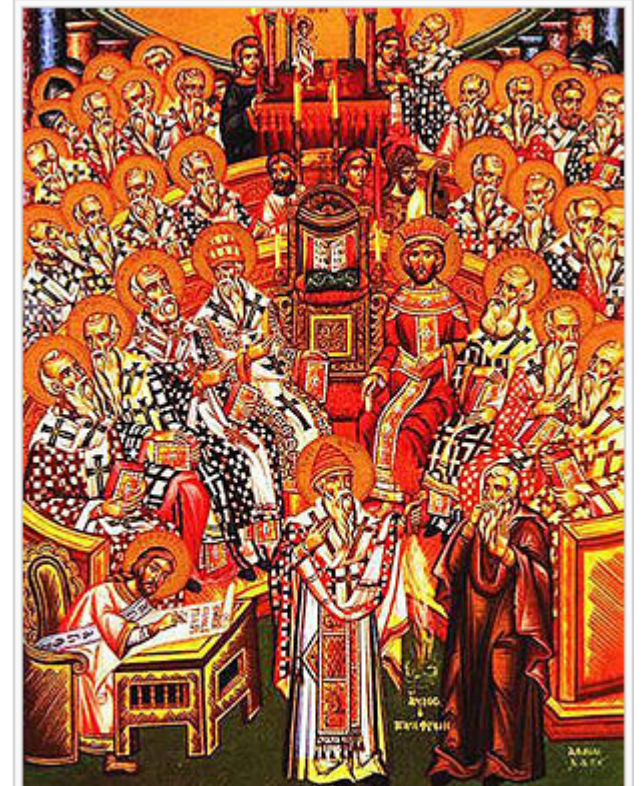
There was a time when the Son was not

The Son was a God. Jesus was the first created being.

Consubstantial (*homousios*). No difference of substance. *Homoiousios* is “like”. *Monogeneis*, only begotten (begotten, not made)

Council of Constantinople, Holy spirit included as co-substantial, or homousios. Opera Trinitatis ad extra indivisa sunt. The whole Trinity is involved in all external work. Different roles, but all working together.

Filoque: Son co-equal with the Father (Latin)



Eastern Orthodox icon depicting the First Council of Nicaea



Many years in *circumscisio*
Many heresies that still survive!!!



THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- Is the Church Christ founded:
 - Visible?
 - Invisible?
 - Both?
- Please explain...
- Brakel: “one must search the Word of God to discern which congregation constitutes the church.” (Rom 3:2, 1 Tim 3:15, Eph. 2:20).



THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

- **Militant church** (Brakel)
- **Invisible:**
 - Internal, *spiritual* frame
 - Faith, mystical union with Christ, spiritual life of the soul
- **Visible:**
 - Gathering where the Word is heard
 - Sacraments are used
 - Public profession in times of prosperity



Not to be divided, one person is also both.
There is only one church.



THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH

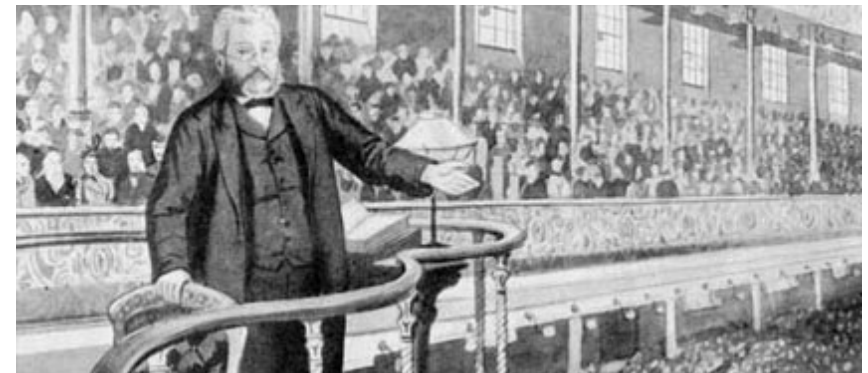
- True church
- True believers:
 - Nonbelievers are not members of the true church
 - Unconverted are not real members even of the visible church



THE FUNCTION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

- Preaching of the gospel
- Administering the sacraments
- Outreach and missions
- Oversight and care of her members
- Discipline
- Mercy ministries

Matt. 28:19, Act 2:41, Act 8:35-36



WCF 25:1

- The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.



WCF 25:2

- The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation (*Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus*, Cyprian of Carthage)



WCF 25:4-5

- This catholic church hath been sometimes more, sometimes less visible. And particular churches, which are members thereof, are more or less pure, according as the doctrine of the gospel is taught and embraced, ordinances administered, and public worship performed more or less purely in them.
- The purest churches under heaven are subject both to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated, as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there shall be always a church on earth, to worship God according to his will.



The true church:

- **Confesses Christ and His truth (1 John 2:6; 1 Pet 3:15)**
- **Is engaged in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:11-18; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:3; Heb. 10:32; 1 Pet 2:11)**
- **Glorifies God (Matt. 6:9-10; Isa. 43-21; 1 Pet 2:9; 2 Cor 8:23)**
- **Mother of the elect (Gal. 4:26; 1 Pet 1:23; Ps. 87:5; Act 2:47)**

THE CHURCH IN SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 18:22** - And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.
- **I Cor. 11:18** - For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.
- **I Cor. 16:19** - The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.



THE CHURCH IN SCRIPTURES (CONT.)

- **Gal. 1:13** - For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.
- **Eph. 1:22** - And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,...
- **Eph. 3:21,22** - Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, *to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*



OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

- Officers of the Church:
 - Elder/bishop
 - Teaching
 - Prayer
 - Oversight
 - Deacon
 - Serving, Ministry of Mercy



THE ELDER

Terms describing the office of an elder

Term	Greek word	Definition:	Emphasis
Elder or presbyter	Presbiteros	An older man a senior	Experience
Overseer or bishop	Episcopos	A guardian or superintendent	Oversight
Shepherd or pastor	Poimen	Metaphoric term (tending flocks)	Protection
Steward	Oikonomo	Metaphoric term (treasurer)	Trustworthy

Relevant Scriptures: Acts 20:17,28
Tit. 1:5-7
I Pet. 5:1,2



OUR TEAM

Pastoral Staff

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Rev. Duncan Rankin
Associate Pastor
706.691.3702 (cell)

Rev. John Carroll
Pastor Emeritus

Ruling Elders

Daryl Brister
Neal Hare
Steve Mathis (Clerk)
Andrew McCallum
David Morris
Randy Prescott
Robert Stacey

Deacons

Jonathan Arrowood
Ben Bosma
Randy Brant
Lee Comer
Calvin Curtis
Arnaldo Espinel
Nick Hidalgo
Stephen Howell

Spencer Jackson (Secretary)
Ken Nesteroff
Moses Ribeiro
Duane Thompson
Glen Tyler (Vice Chair)
Van VanZant
Michael Wright (Chairman)



CONCLUSION

- Only one church
- *Semper reformanda*
- Follow the marks, learn Theology too!
- Use the church for your sanctification (Phil. 2:12-13)



NEXT WEEK:

- **Worship**

