

✠ FRONTLINE



CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS



DISCUSSION

Discussion

1. Where is God calling you to worship him in new and greater ways in this season as you consider the triune God?
2. When reading the letter to Titus this week, how were you challenged as it relates to your understanding of the church?





Session 4

The Church



I. The Bible's High View of the Church

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- The Church as Miracle



“¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

“¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 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 16:13-19

I. The Bible's High View of the Church

- The Church as Miracle
- The Church as Mystery



“¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

“¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

Ephesians 1:15-23

“7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:7-10

“The Church is the fullness of the One who fills all things; she is the body of the Lord of Heaven and earth. She is the beloved of God, wooed and betrothed by God Himself. She is the one for whom God became man. He died on a cross and rose again for her. He is returning soon for her. His love for her never fails. She is the end and aim of all His works.”

-- Brad East, 'The Church: A Guide to the People of God





Activity

Metaphors of the Church

Scriptures to consider:

1. *The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-24)*
2. *The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33)*
3. *The Household of God (Ephesians 2:14-20)*
4. *The Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)*

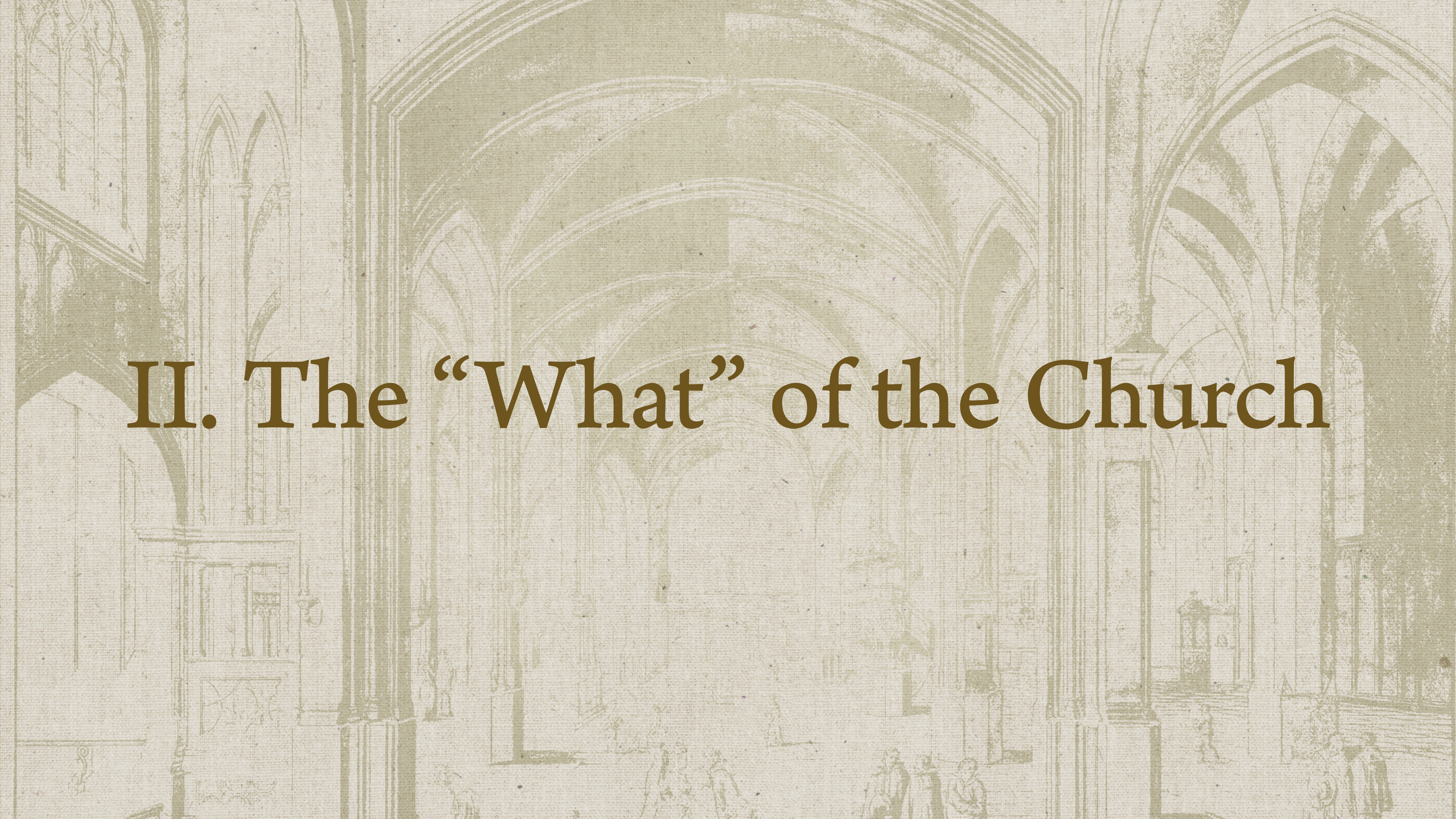


Metaphors of the Church

Questions to ask:

1. *What does this metaphor tell us about God?*
2. *What does this metaphor tell us about our identity and action as the church?*
3. *What should a person experience if we embodied this metaphor as a church?*





II. The “What” of the Church

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- One



[20] “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, [21] that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. [22] The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, [23] I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

John 17:20–23

II. The “What” of the Church

- One
- Holy



[9] But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

[11] Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. [12] Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

II. The “What” of the Church

- One
- Holy
- Catholic



[9] After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, [10] and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" [11] And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, [12] saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Revelation 7:9–12

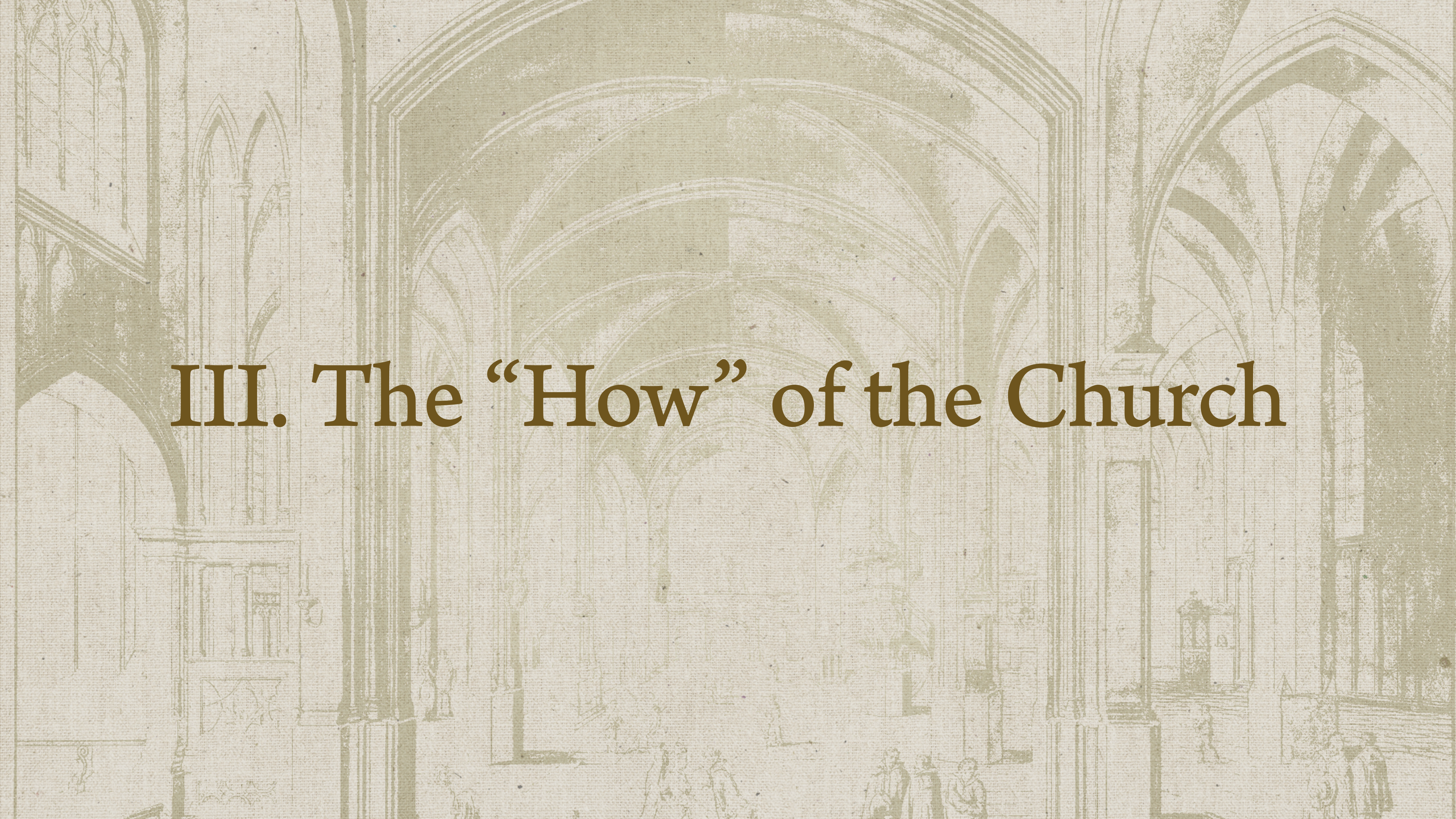
II. The “What” of the Church

- One
- Holy
- Catholic
- Apostolic



[19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2:19–21



III. The “How” of the Church

III. The “How” of the Church

- Gathered Worship



III. The “How” of the Church

- Gathered Worship
- Scattered Communities on Mission



III. The “How” of the Church

- Gathered Worship
- Scattered Communities on Mission
- Membership



III. The “How” of the Church

- Gathered Worship
- Scattered Communities on Mission
- Membership
- Church Discipline



III. The “How” of the Church

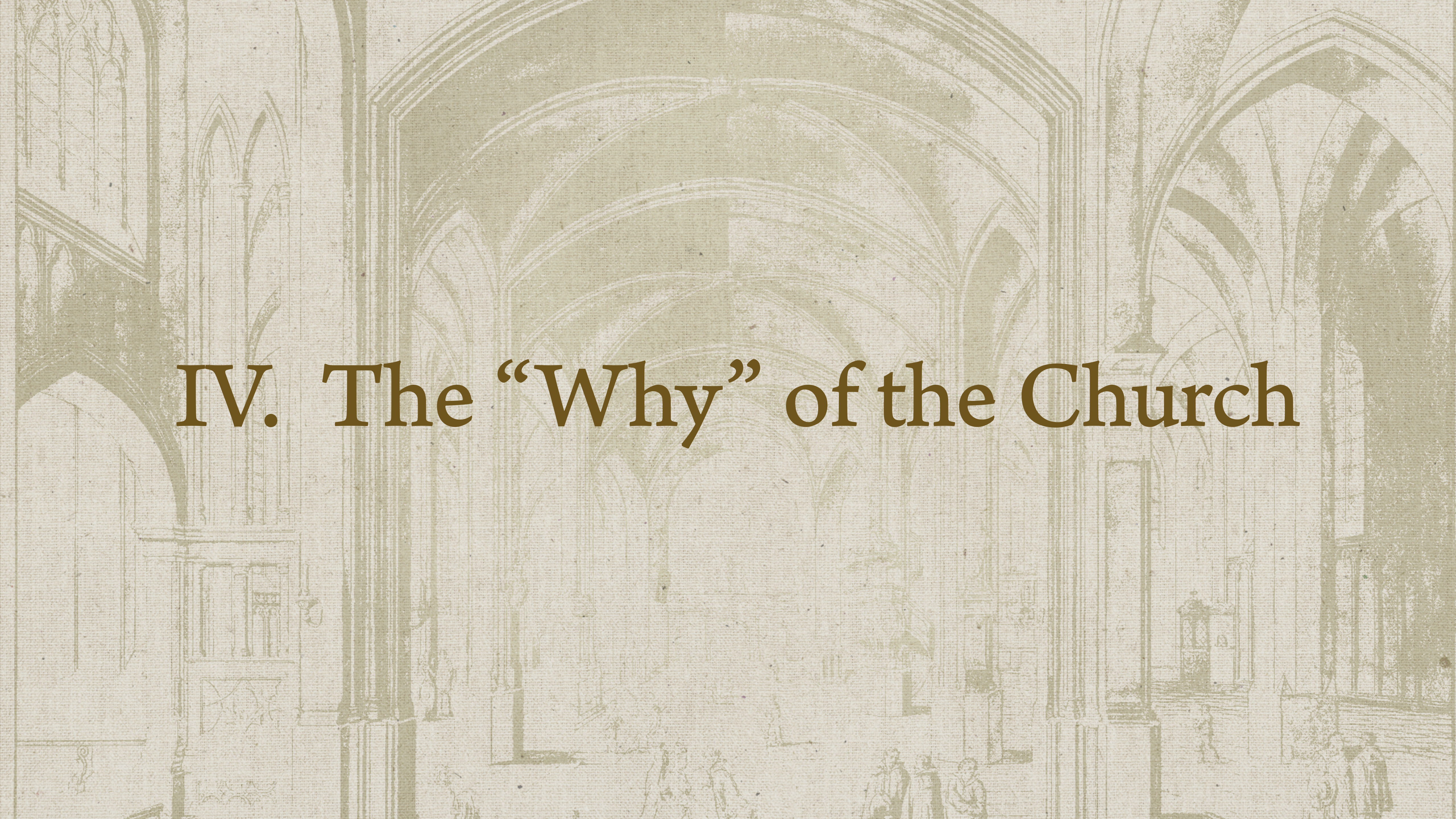
- Gathered Worship
- Scattered Communities on Mission
- Membership
- Church Discipline
- Offices



III. The “How” of the Church

- Gathered Worship
- Scattered Communities on Mission
- Membership
- Church Discipline
- Offices
- Church Planting & Strengthening





IV. The “Why” of the Church

IV. The “Why” of the Church

- For Communion



IV. The “Why” of the Church

- For Communion
- For Discipleship



IV. The “Why” of the Church

- For Communion
- For Discipleship
- For Mission



IV. The “Why” of the Church

- For Communion
- For Discipleship
- For Mission
- For Hope



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