

# Essentials.

**G**

One  
Sovereign  
Creator

**J**

Resurrected  
God-Man  
Christ

**Sp**

Holy  
Indwelling  
Life-Giver

**Gr**

Free  
By Faith  
Salvation

**Ch**

The Body  
Local  
Awaiting

**Ad**

2<sup>nd</sup> Coming  
Judgement  
Restoration

**Ev**

Missional  
Obedience  
Discipleship

## Fundamental Elements of The Christian Faith

Equipping Class March / April 2023



River Oaks  
Community Church

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## The Church

April 16, 2023 (Class 5 of 7)

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**God - Jesus - Spirit - Grace -  
Church - Advent - Evangelism**

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**God - Jesus - Spirit - Grace -  
Church - Advent - Evangelism**

# The Church

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**What is the Church?**

**What must be present?**

**What is her purpose?**

# The Church

## *Kuriakos*

- Possessive of Kurios (Lord)
- *The Lord's*, Dedicated to the Lord, Sacred Building / Temple
- 2x in N.T. (1 Cor.11:20 / Rev. 1:10)



# The Church

## *Ekklesia*

- Ek (out) + Kaleo (to call)
- *The Called-Out Ones*, Assembly of People (Religious or Civil)
- 122x in N.T.

# The Church

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*Ecclesiology*

*Ecclesiastical*

*Book of Ecclesiastes*

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# The Church

The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ. The Church finds her visible, yet imperfect, expression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached ...



The  
**Essentials**

# The Church

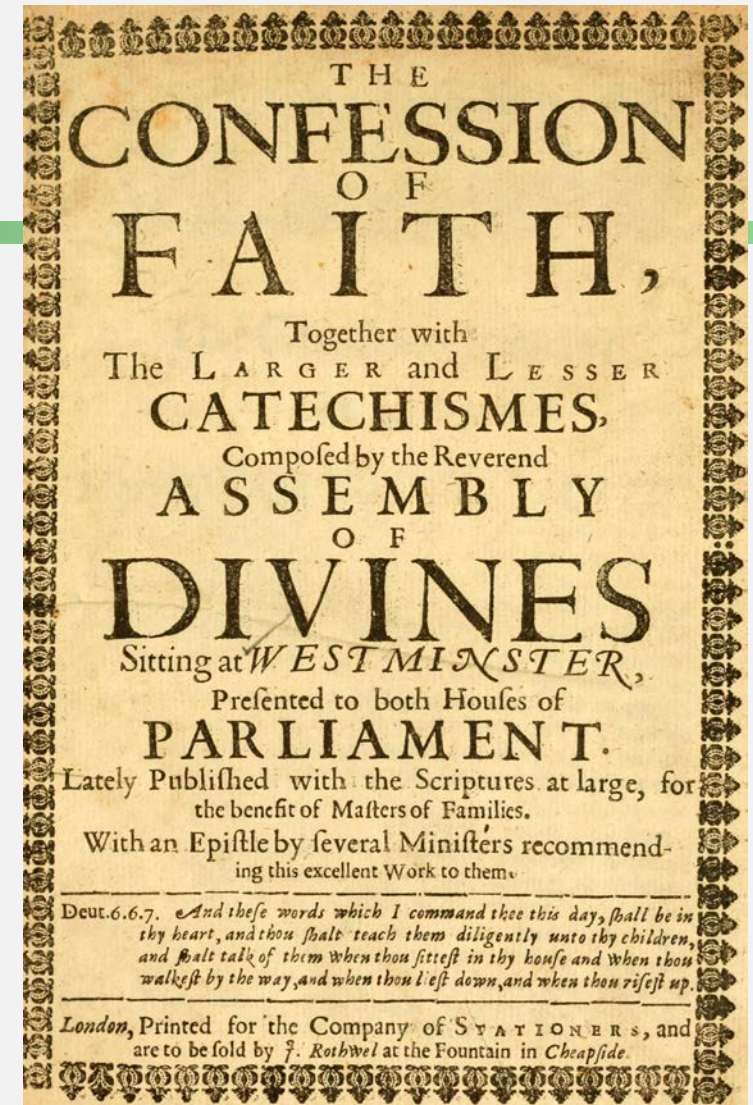
... in its purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity; where scriptural discipline is practiced, and where loving fellowship is maintained. For her perfecting, she awaits the return of her Lord.



The  
**Essentials**

# The Church

- Chapter 25 “The Church”
  - Invisible Global Body of Christ
  - Visible Global Body of Christ
  - Visible Body: Ministry, Scriptures, Ordinances of God
  - Visible Body: More / Less Pure
  - The Purest Visible Churches are Subject to Impurity / Error
  - Jesus Christ is Head of the Church



# The Church



## *Q. 48 – What is the church?*

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

# The Church

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## Foundational Truths

- **The Invisible Church**
- **The Visible Church**
- **The Awaiting Church**

# The Invisible Church

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I believe in ... the  
holy catholic church



# The Invisible Church

- Ephesians 1:22-23 (The Body of Christ)
- Ephesians 1:3...9,10 (Unite All Things)
- Ephesians 5:23-32 (Christ & The Church)
- Colossians 1:18 (Head of the Church)
- Matthew 7:21-23 (Not Everyone Who ...)
- Matthew 16:16-18 (Foundational Truth)
- Matthew 13:24-30 (Parable of Weeds)

# The Invisible Church

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- True Faith in Christ
- Invisible to Us, Not to God
- Can Not Fall Out
- Will Lead Us to Engaging ....

# The Visible Church

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I believe in ... the  
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# The Visible Church

- Acts 2:41-42 (The Earliest “Church”)
- Acts 9:31 (Building Up the Church)
- Ephesians 4:11-13 (Equipping the Body)
- 1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (Church Discipline)
- Galatians 1:1-2 (To the Churches)
- Hebrews 10:23-25 (Meet Together)
- 1 John 2:19-20 (A Distinction of Members)

# The Visible Church

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- Visible Manifestation – The Body of Christ
- Not Ordinarily Saved Apart from Visible Church Means
- Can Fall Out

# The Awaiting Church

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- Luke 5:33-35 (The Bridegroom's Away)
- 2 Corinthians 11:2 (Like a Bride Waiting)
- Revelation 19:7 (The Marriage Feast))
- Revelation 21:1-3 (A Restored Assembly)

# Marks of the Church

“The marks by which the true Church is known are these: If the pure doctrine of the gospel is preached therein; if it maintains the pure administration of the sacraments as instituted by Christ; if church discipline is exercised.”

– Belgic Confession

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“**God’s Word Preached** is  
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# Marks of the Church

God's Word Preached

Sacraments (Worship)

“The church is of it  
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# Marks of the Church

God's Word Preached

Sacraments (Worship)

Sanctification of Body

# The Church

“There are various estimates of the Christian church. Some think everything of her; some think nothing of her; and probably neither opinion is worth the breath which utters it. Neither Ritualists, who idolize their church, nor sceptics, who vilify all churches, have any such knowledge of the true spiritual church of Jesus Christ as to be entitled to give an opinion.” — Charles Spurgeon

# The Church

“If I had never joined a church till I had found one that was perfect, I should never have joined one at all; and the moment I did join it, if I had found one, I should have spoiled it, for it would not have been a perfect church after I had become a member of it. Still, imperfect as it is, it is the dearest place on earth to us.” — Charles Spurgeon

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**Next Week**

## Second Coming

April 23, 2023 (Class 6 of 7)



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