

## SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY - ECCLESIOLOGY LESSON 2

### Gospel Growth | August 25, 2019

**THE MARKS OF THE CHURCH** could be approached from two vantage points. One would consider the marks of the true versus the false church. The other would look at the marks of a healthy versus an unhealthy church.

Regarding the **true church versus the false church** the historic marks have been as follows:

One

Holy

Catholic

Apostolic

Word

Ordinances

Discipline

The **health of a church** may be defined in a variety of ways. Mark Dever suggests 9 categories:

Expositional preaching

Biblical Theology

The Gospel

Conversion

Evangelism

Membership

Discipline

Discipleship

Leadership

#### WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER REGARDING LEAVING A CHURCH

- Have you expended all your opportunities to effect positive change in the church?
- Will continued participation in the church exert a negative impact on your relationship or worship of God, your ministry for Christ, or the use of your spiritual gifts?
- Do you have to compromise too much to stay in the church (i.e., essential doctrines and practices, a lifestyle in accordance with biblical values and principles)?
- Do you have a legitimate reason for leaving?
- Has God released you from your current responsibilities such that you are free to leave?

#### IMAGES OF THE CHURCH

- The church as a \_\_\_\_\_ or household (Gal 6:10).
- The church as the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
- The church as the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1Cor. 12:27; Rom 12:5; Eph 4:13-16).
- The church as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (Eph 2:21-22; 2Cor. 6:16; 1Pet 2:5).

## THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Here we want to consider what the church's purpose is? What services should it offer?

The **church mission**, its purpose at large.

### Key Ministry expressions

**Divine enablement** to fulfill the mission and carry out the ministries of the church.

## CHURCH GOVERNMENT - OFFICES OF THE CHURCH

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Should some governing and teaching roles be restricted to men in the church or should all of them be open to both men and women?

## CHURCH GOVERNMENT – POLITICS IN THE HISTORICAL CHURCH

- Episcopalianism
- Presbyterianism
- Congregationalism

## WORSHIP IN THE CHURCH

- William Temple's definition – "Worship is the submission of all our nature to God, the quickening of conscience by his holiness, the nourishment of mind with his truth, the purifying of imagination by his beauty, the opening of the heart to his love, and the surrender of will to his purpose." In this definition, the worship of God impacts all that we are.
- Allen Ross' definition – "True worship is the celebration of being in covenant fellowship with the sovereign and holy triune God by means of the reverent adoration and spontaneous praise of God's nature and works, the express commitment of trust and obedience to the covenant responsibilities, and the memorial enactment of entering into covenant through ritual acts, all with the confident anticipation of the fulfillment of the covenant promises in glory." In this definition, the corporate worship service is in view.

The **Nature** of worship

The **Liturgy** of worship

The **Components** of worship

- The regulative principle
- The normative principle