

The Church

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Welcome to this Saturday Theology Session!

We pray that this time is an encouragement to you, and – by the end of the morning – you will know God better and even love Him more. The topic this morning may seem straightforward. You may well have been driving by churches or attending church your whole life. It's almost second nature. And there is nothing wrong with that. Yet, when starting to think more about the Church, a whole host of other issues arise:

Why is my belonging to a Church so vital? What's the Church's role within the culture and within God's plan? And, to dive into a controversial topic: Are there distinct roles for men and women within the Church? In short, what *is* the Church?

We have a few hours today. So, we'll walk through some Scripture to help us untangle this topic. Since there is always more that could be covered as we seek to apply the Word to our lives, below are three excellent websites which cover all kinds of things Biblical and theological. 9Marks ministry focuses on issues relating to the Church, but all three are very helpful.

Desiring God Ministries: www.desiringgod.org
The Gospel Coalition: www.thegospelcoalition.org
9Marks <https://www.9marks.org>

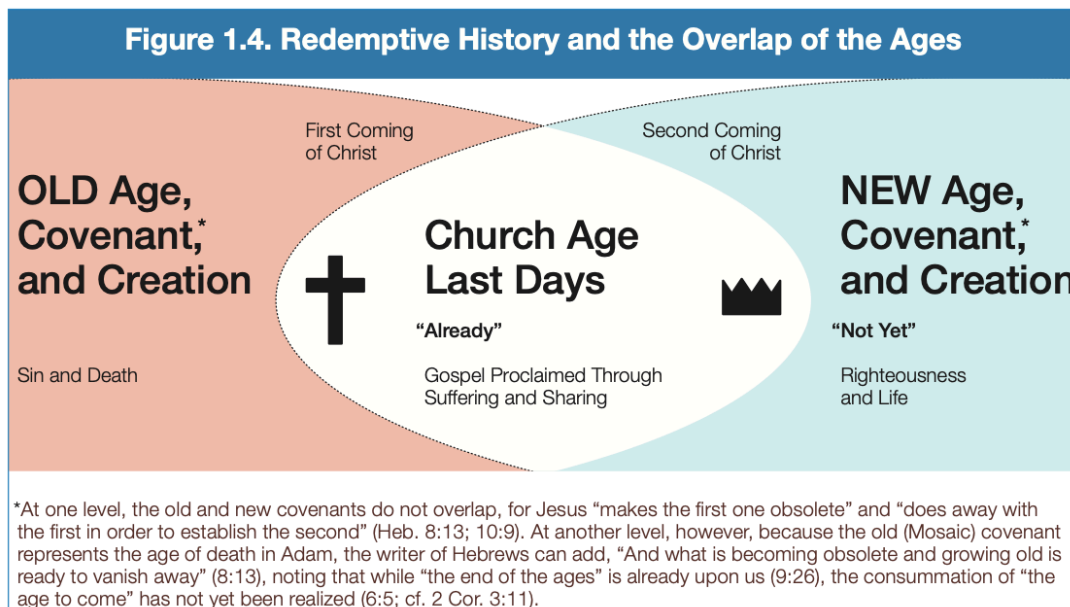
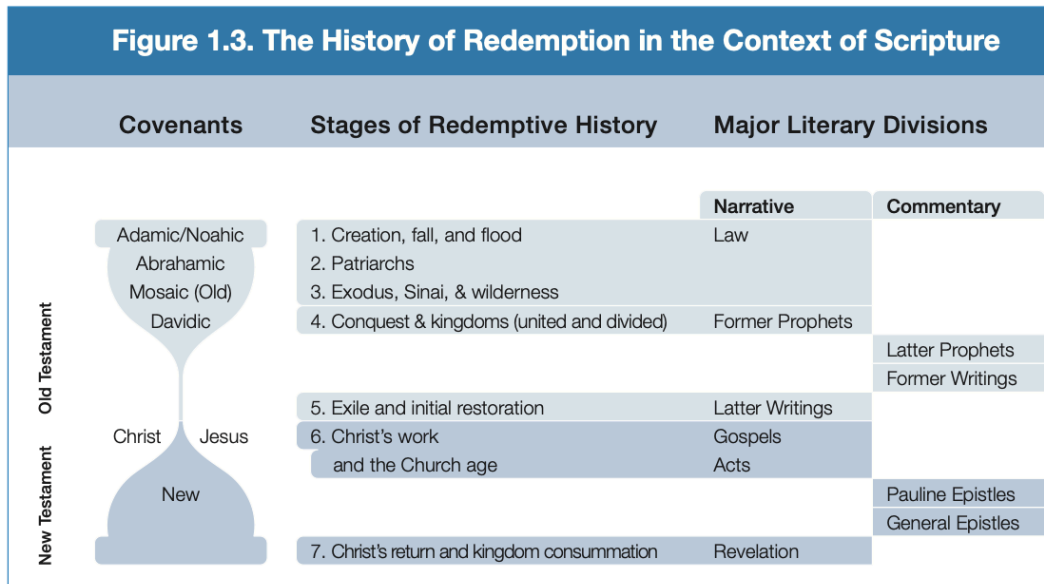
Text questions to (847) 719-6102

Part 1: Panorama & You

Panorama

A Brief Biblical Tour on the Purpose of the Church

Jason DeRouchie, *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About: A Survey of Jesus' Bible*



Why the Church?

The church is the planned culmination of God's glorious intention *for* people and our purpose and joy as people.

Toward the Church ... For Worship: Bible History as His-Story

What do these texts say about the world, people's role, and ultimately: God's purposes

Genesis 1:28 (God's instructions to Adam and Eve)

Genesis 9:1 (God's instruction to Noah)

Genesis 12:1-4 (Abraham is blessed to be ...)

Exodus 9:16 (The result of God's interaction with Pharaoh?)

Joshua 2:9-10 (How does Rahab hear about God?)

1 Kings 4:34 (A result of Solomon's wisdom was?)

Daniel 3:29 (The fiery furnace results in?)

Matthew 24:14 (What is connected to the end?)

Matthew 28:16-20 (Jesus' instructions to the Disciples. Who gets discipled?)

Mark 11:15-17 (Jesus cleans out the temple because ...)

Luke 24:46-48 (Jesus' purpose for the disciples ...)

Acts 1:8 (Places not included?)

Acts 2:22-24 (Peter's sermon on Pentecost :: Who is behind the crucifixion?)

Acts 17:26-27 (Paul's speech to Greek Philosophers :: origins and intentions)

Romans 1:5 and Romans 16:26 ('to bring about ...' -> 'all ...')

Revelation 5:9-10 (Who is included? What will they do?)

Revelation 7:9-10 (Who is included? What will they do?)

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven — *Matthew 6:10*

The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea. — *Habakkuk 2:14*

You

Church Membership is **for** You

Membership and the Bible

Membership and Persevering in the Faith

‘The Church is the Gospel made visible’

Mark Dever

What is church membership? It's a declaration of citizenship in Christ's kingdom. It's a passport. It's an announcement made in the press room of Christ's kingdom. It's the declaration that you are an official, licensed, card-carrying, bona fide Jesus representative.

To offer another clunky definition, we can say that *church membership is a formal relationship between a church and a Christian characterized by the church's affirmation and oversight of a Christians's discipleship and the Christian's submission to living out his or her discipleship in the care of the church.*

— Jonathan Leeman, *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus*, 64

Part 2: Controversy: Ministry Roles

Hermeneutics: Cultural Assumptions and Influences

Hermeneutics: Context, Context, Context

1 Timothy 2:1–15 (ESV)

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

7 For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

8 I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling;

9 likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire,

10 but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works.

11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness.

12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

14 and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

15 Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

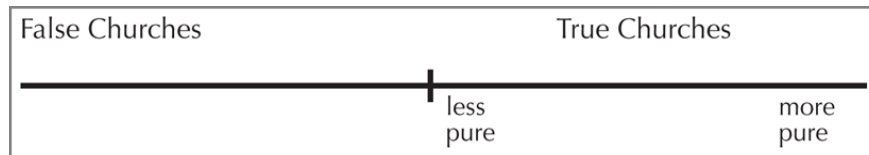
Part 3: Among Churches & Church In the World

Among Churches

Applying Commands for both **Unity** and **Purity**

Purity: Be holy, as I am holy (1 Pet 1:16); ‘ ... be separate from them ... ’ (2 Cor 6:17)

Unity: One Flock, One Shepherd (John 10:16); ‘ ... perfectly one...’ (Jn 17:23)



From Grudem, *Systematic Theology 2nd Ed.*, 1072

12 Signs of a 'More Pure' Church (Grudem, 1073):

1. Biblical doctrine (or right preaching of the Word)
2. Proper use of the sacraments (or ordinances)
3. Right use of church discipline
4. Genuine worship
5. Effective prayer
6. Effective witness
7. Effective fellowship
8. Biblical church government
9. Spiritual power in ministry
10. Personal holiness of life among members
11. Care for the poor
12. Love for Christ

Theological Triage

First-Order Issues

Second-Order Issues

Third-Order Issues

Church In the World

Church in Culture while being in the World, not of the World

	YES	YET	So
History Biblical Story			
Conversations in Word			
Vocation, etc. in Deed			

Acts 17:16–34 (ESV)

16 Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? 20 For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” 21 Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made

by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

28 for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

29 Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.” 32 Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” 33 So Paul went out from their midst. 34 But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

‘Against the World, *For* the World’
Athanasius

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Recommended Resources

Part 1: Panorama & You

Jonathan Leeman, *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus*

Vaughan Roberts, *God's Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible*

Bob Sjogren, *Unveiled at Last: Discover God's Hidden Message from Genesis to Revelation*

Part 2: Controversy: Ministry Roles

Kevin DeYoung, *Men and Women in the Church*

Kevin DeYoung, '5 Questions about God's Design for Gender' — <https://www.crossway.org/articles/5-questions-about-gods-design-for-gender/>

Two Websites that argue for different sides of this debate:

Complementarian: Council for Biblical Manhood & Womanhood: <https://cbmw.org>

Egalitarian: Christians for Biblical Equality: <https://www.cbeinternational.org>

Part 3: Among Churches & Church In the World

J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity & Liberalism*

Al Mohler, 'A Call for Theological Triage and Christian Maturity' — <https://albertmohler.com/2004/05/20/a-call-for-theological-triage-and-christian-maturity-2>

Gavin Ortland, *Finding the Right Hills to Die On*

Daniel Strange, *Plugged In: Connecting your faith with what you watch, read, and play*
Interview: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/season-2-episode-2-engaging-with-culture-with-dan-strange/id1484010749?i=1000462904216>

Carl Trueman, *A Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution*

Interview: <https://albertmohler.com/2022/04/20/carl-trueman-2>

General:

Ed Clowney, *The Church*

Mark Dever, 'The Church is the Gospel Made Visible' <https://t4g.org/resources/mark-dever/the-church-is-the-gospel-made-visible-session-i-3/>

If there are other questions or specific topics of interest,
please contact Kyle Meeker (kmeeker@harvestbiblechapel.org)