

Implication #3: The Church Gathers for Edification

“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.” – 1 Cor. 14:26

Conclusion

Course Outline:

Week 1 -- What is a Church?

Week 2 -- The Keys: Church Membership

Week 3 -- The Keys: Church Discipline

Week 4 -- Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Week 5 -- Church Governance: Congregationalism and Elders

Week 6 -- The Church Gathered

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CORE Seminars – Theology of the Church Capitol Hill Baptist Church Week 6: *The Church Gathered*



I. Introduction

- *What is the purpose of our weekly gatherings?*

II. The Purpose of the Church

Guarding the “what” and “who” of the gospel.

- Matthew 16, 18

Secondary implications of this purpose statement:

- The Great Commandment
- The Great Commission

The New Testament calls churches to gather regularly

Implication #1: Our Gatherings Are Designed by God

We need church gatherings as God has designed them.

The “regulative” principle (vs. the “normative” principle).

What does God call us to do in church?

- Pray (Col. 4:2-4, 1 Tim. 2:1-2)
- Read Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13, Col. 4:15)
- Listen to Preaching (Acts 2:42, 1 Tim. 4:13)
- Baptize (Matt. 28:19)
- Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11)
- Sing (Eph. 5:19, Heb 13:15)
- Give (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

Three reasons to limit our services to these elements

1. We don’t have warrant to bind a Christian’s conscience where Scripture doesn’t. (Hebrews 10:25)
2. God requires that we approach him in his way
3. The Holy Spirit had good reasons for designing our gatherings as he did.

A few areas of application

- Use this in evaluating a new church home
- Use this to evaluate our own church’s services
- Make sure that you make use of *all* of what the Holy Spirit has given you

Implication #2: God Has Special Purposes for Our Corporate Worship

Some thoughts on worship in general:

Worship is “engaging with God on the terms that he purposes and in the way that he alone makes possible.” – David Peterson

Three characteristics of worship

- It is response to God himself
- It encompasses our entire lives (Romans 12:1)
- It is delight in the beauty of God in Christ

What’s so special about corporate worship?

1. We hear a trustworthy message
2. We worship *together*
3. The ordinances