

OVERVIEW OF A 6-WEEK CLASS

1 “The church is the primary work of the holy Trinity.” (Francis Turretin)

“I will build my church.
(Mt. 16:18)

2 **ISRAEL**
GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE UNDER THE LAW



1. Where Yahweh reigns from the ark of the covenant in his Temple
2. Earthly nation with ethnic boundaries
3. Gentiles may join through circumcision and submission to the Mosaic law



King Jesus comes as a Savior for all people, and receives authority heaven and earth by his death and resurrection.



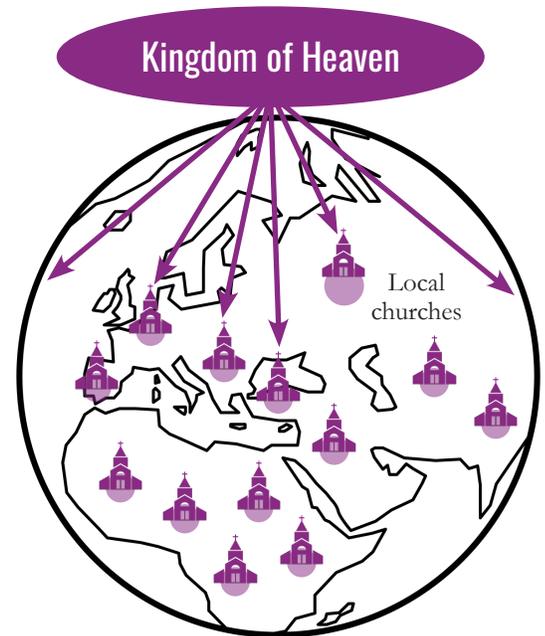
The ascended Christ pours out the Spirit as his representative at Pentecost.



Mt. 28:18–20
Acts 2

THE CHURCH

GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE UNDER THE GOSPEL



1. Wherever Christ is made present in his gathered body by the Holy Spirit
2. Multi-national, multi-ethnic
3. All people welcomed through faith in Christ and baptism into his body

3 **MARKS OF THE CHURCH**

Nicene Creed: “I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.”

- **ONE:** united by a common Lord, Spirit, faith, hope, baptism, and bread (Eph. 4:4–6; 1 Cor. 10:17; Jn. 17)
- **HOLY:** set apart from the world as God’s possession (1 Pet. 2:9); cleansed by Christ’s blood and word to be pure and blameless (Eph. 5:25–27; Jn 17:17)
- **CATHOLIC:** does not refer to Roman Catholic Church; from a Greek word meaning “through the whole,” i.e., universal (see above)
- **APOSTOLIC:** holds fast to apostolic faith (Jude 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:3; Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:20); bears apostolic authority (Mt. 18:15–20, cf. 16:18; Jn. 20:23; see pg. 2)

METAPHORS/IMAGES FOR THE CHURCH

- **Family/Household of God** (Eph. 2:19; Gal. 6:10)
- **Temple of God & the Holy Spirit** (Eph. 2:19–22; 1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:16–17, “you” is plural)
- **The Israel of God, Chosen Race, Holy Nation, Royal Priesthood** (Gal. 6:16; 1 Pet. 5:1, cf. Ex. 19:6)
- **Body of Christ** (Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12. Eph. 5)
- **Bride of Christ** (Rev. 21:9, 19:7–8; Eph. 5:32)
- **Pillar and Buttress of the Truth** (1 Tim. 3:15)
- **Ark of Salvation** (1 Pet. 3:20–21; see pg. 2)
- **Mother of the Faithful** (see pg. 2)
- *Other metaphors: Flock of God (1 Pet. 5:1); Vine (Jn. 15) God’s Army (Rev. 7); City of God (Rev. 21)*

“ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 16:19; cf. 18:15–20)

4

THE LOCAL CHURCH

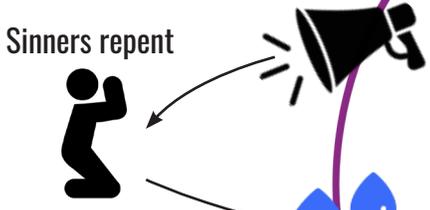
A COVENANT ASSEMBLY & EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM



a people in a place

GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM IS PREACHED

“Take refuge in King Jesus!”



Sinners repent

5

BAPTISM IS ADMINISTERED

Sacrament of initiation/entrance into church
One member is joined to the body

Acts 2:38, 41, 47; 8:12; Eph. 4:4–6; Col. 2:11–12; 1 Cor. 10:1–4; 1 Pet. 3:20–21; *Nicene Creed*, “I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.”

KEYS OF THE KINGDOM
to receive and exclude members

Matt. 16:18–19; 18:15–20; Jn. 20:23

LORD’S SUPPER IS ADMINISTERED



Sacrament of unity
Many members are united as one body
1 Cor. 10:16–17

Members who sin are gently disciplined

Gal. 6:1; 2 Cor. 13:10; 1 Cor. 4:14; 1 Tim. 3:4–5; Heb. 12



6

Sinners who repeatedly refuse to repent are excommunicated. Exclusion from the bread signifies exclusion from the body.

Mt. 18:15–20; 1 Cor. 5; 1 Tim. 1:20; 1 Cor. 10:16; Mt. 26:28, cf. Jn. 20:23

Everything must be done in Christlike love, to build up the body. John 15:12; Eph. 4:1–16

“ The Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)



There is no ordinary possibility of salvation apart from coming under Christ’s reign through membership in the visible church, to whom he has entrusted the keys of the kingdom.

“The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation as before under the law) consists of all those, throughout the world, that profess the true religion, and of their children; and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.” (*Westminster Confession*, 25.2)

“We believe that since this holy assembly and congregation is the gathering of those who are saved and there is no salvation apart from it, people ought not to withdraw from it, content to be by themselves, regardless of their status or condition. But all people are obliged to join and unite with it, keeping the unity of the church by submitting to its instruction and discipline, by bending their necks under the yoke of Jesus Christ, and by serving to build up one another, according to the gifts God has given them as members of each other in the same body.” (*Belgic Confession*, “Article 28: The Obligations of Church Members”)

“To those to whom he is a Father, the Church must also be a mother.” (John Calvin; cf. Augustine, Cyprian)