

Emmaus Essentials
The London Baptist Confession of 1689
Chapter 26: Of the Church (Part 2 of 3)
For Distribution on 06/30/2014

Chapter Outline taken from *ST 535 Baptist Symbolics Chapter Outlines* by Dr. Renihan

Introduction

I. The Power of Christ: His Act

Para 5 - "In the execution of this power wherewith he is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calleth out of the world unto himself, through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit, those that are given unto him by his Father, that they may walk before him in all the ways of obedience, which he prescribeth to them in his word. Those thus called, he commandeth to walk together in particular societies, or churches, for their mutual edification, and the due performance of that public worship, which he requireth of them in the world."

(John 10:16; John 12:32; Matthew 28:20; Matthew 18:15-20)

A. Christ calls people to himself (See 'calling' in para 4)

1. Through the Word (See LBC 14.2)

2. By the Spirit

3. From the Father (See LBC 3, 7, 8)

4. To obedience prescribed in the Word (See LBC 16)

- This is simply teaching on how the doctrines presented earlier related to the ecclesiology (the Church)

B. These people are to form churches (this is what those *called* are to do)

1. For mutual edification

2. For public worship (standing as testimonies to the world giving worship to God - public worship is God oriented and not man oriented)

3. According to his requirements

Support Texts

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." (John 10:16, ESV)

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:32, ESV)

"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."" (Matthew 28:20, ESV)

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:15–20, ESV)

II. The Power of Christ: The Intended Result

Para 6 - “The members of these churches are saints by calling, visibly manifesting and evidencing (in and by their profession and walking) their obedience unto that call of Christ; and do willingly consent to walk together, according to the appointment of Christ; giving up themselves to the Lord, and one to another, by the will of God, in professed subjection to the ordinances of the Gospel.”

(Romans. 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Acts 2:41, 42; Acts 5:13, 14; 2 Corinthians 9:13)

A. The Identity of the people Christ calls

1. Saints by calling

a) Effectual calling (all believers)

2. Visibly demonstrating obedience

a) A profession of faith must accompany visible obedience

B. The acts of the people Christ calls

1. Willing Consent to walk together according to Christ's appointment

a) A voluntary society

(1) Not by compulsion or inheritance

2. In relation to God and one another

a) Give themselves to the Lord and to one another (two great commandments)

3. In subjection to Gospel ordinances

a) Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and all of those things that God has ordained in the gospel

Support Texts

“To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 1:7, ESV)

“To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:” (1 Corinthians 1:2, ESV)

“So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41, ESV)

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42, ESV)

“None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.” (Acts 5:13, ESV)

“And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,” (Acts 5:14, ESV)

“By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,” (2 Corinthians 9:13, ESV)

III. The Power of Christ: Granted to the Church

Para 7 - “To each of these churches thus gathered, according to his mind declared in his word, he hath given all that power and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in worship and discipline, which he hath instituted for them to observe; with commands and rules for the due and right exerting, and executing of that power.”
(Matthew 18:17, 18; 1 Corinthians 5:4, 5; 1 Corinthians 5:13; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8)

A. Christ gives power to the Church

1. To *each* church properly gathered
 - a) Power not given to a few within the Church, but to the whole church
2. It is sufficient for all their needs
 - a) Order in worship, discipline, etc.
 - b) The whole church is to be involved
 - (1) Notice our practice up to this point at Emmaus

B. It is based on the Scripture

1. The church is not free to do whatever it wants, but to do what God's word teaches.

Support Texts

“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:17-18, ESV)

“When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 5:4-5, ESV)

“God judges those outside. ‘Purge the evil person from among you.’” (1 Corinthians 5:13, ESV)

“For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.” (2 Corinthians 2:6–8, ESV)

IV. The Power of Christ: Granted to Officers

Para 8 - “A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members; and the officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the church (so called and gathered), for the peculiar administration of ordinances, and execution of power or duty, which he intrusts them with, or calls them to, to be continued to the end of the world, are bishops or elders, and deacons.”
(Acts 20:17, 28; Philippians 1:1)

- A. Completely organized church consists of officers and members
 - B. The officers are
 - 1. Appointed by Christ
 - 2. Chosen and ordained by the church
 - C. For specific purposes:
 - 1. Administration of ordinances
 - 2. Execution of power or duty
 - a) Church discipline
 - (1) Officers and Members must be involved
 - (a) Officers cannot do church discipline on their own
 - (b) Officers are to make the pronouncement though
- D. Identified:
 - 1. Bishops or elders
 - 2. Deacons

V. The Power of Christ: Calling Officers

Para 9 - “The way appointed by Christ for the calling of any person, fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit, unto the office of bishop or elder in a church, is, that he be chosen thereunto by the common suffrage of the church itself; and solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, with imposition of hands of the eldership of the church, if there be any before constituted therein; and of a deacon that he be chosen by the like suffrage, and set apart by prayer, and the like

imposition of hands.”

(Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 4:14; Acts 6:3, 5, 6)

- A. Christ Appoints, the Holy Spirit fits and gifts
- B. The Church participates: Suffrage
- C. Ordination of elders and deacons alike
 - 1. Fasting and Prayer
 - 2. Imposition of hands

Support Texts

“And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.” (Acts 14:23, ESV)

“Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.” (1 Timothy 4:14, ESV)

“Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.” (Acts 6:3, ESV)

“And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.” (Acts 6:5, ESV)

“These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.” (Acts 6:6, ESV)

VI. The Power of Christ: Ministerial Support

Para 10 - “The work of pastors being constantly to attend the service of Christ, in his churches, in the ministry of the word and prayer, with watching for their souls, as they that must give an account to Him; it is incumbent on the churches to whom they minister, not only to give them all due respect, but also to communicate to them of all their good things according to their ability, so as they may have a comfortable supply, without being themselves entangled in secular affairs; and may also be capable of exercising hospitality towards others; and this is required by the law of nature, and by the express order of our Lord Jesus, who hath ordained that they that preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.”

(Acts 6:4; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 5:17, 18; Galatians 6:6, 7; 2 Timothy 2:4; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Corinthians 9:6-14)

- A. Pastors must:
 - 1. Minister the Word and prayer
 - 2. Watch for the souls of their people
- B. Churches must
 - 1. Show them respect

2. Support them
 - a) Comfortably
 - b) Without secular employment
 - c) So they may be hospitable

C. The legal basis

1. The law of nature
2. The express command of Christ

Support Texts

“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:4, ESV)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Hebrews 13:17, ESV)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.” (1 Timothy 5:17, ESV)

“For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” (1 Timothy 5:18, ESV)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.” (Galatians 6:6, ESV)

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” (Galatians 6:7, ESV)

“No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.” (2 Timothy 2:4, ESV)

“Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,” (1 Timothy 3:2, ESV)

“Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? For it is written in the Law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.” (1 Corinthians 9:6–14, ESV)