

**Emmaus Essentials**  
**The London Baptist Confession of 1689**  
**Chapter 26: Of the Church (Part 3 of 3)**  
**For Distribution on 07/07/2014**

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

**Introduction**

**I. The Power of Christ: Gifted Brethren**

Para 11 - Although it be incumbent on the bishops or pastors of the churches, to be instant in preaching the word, by way of office, yet the work of preaching the word is not so peculiarly confined to them but that others also gifted and fitted by the Holy Spirit for it, and approved and called by the church, may and ought to perform it.  
( Acts 11:19-21; 1 Peter 4:10, 11 )

A. Pastors must preach the word

1. Incumbent - Preaching is a part of the office that Pastors hold
2. Instant - ready, prepared, active

B. But they are not alone

1. The Presbyterian view was that only those classically ordained and formally trained in the university (with some rare exceptions)
2. Congregationalists and Baptist argued that this should not be
3. This is not a blanket statement that everyone can preach
4. The intent of this statement is to extend the preaching ministry of the church

C. There are others who have been

1. Gifted and fitted by the Spirit
2. Approved and Called by the Church

D. They ought to preach also

E. Emmaus' *Licensed to Preach* process

1. Good for the man
2. Good for the church

Support Texts

Acts 11:19–21 (ESV)

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But

there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

1 Peter 4:10–11 (ESV)

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## **II. The Power of Christ: The Exercise of Discipline**

Para 12 - As all believers are bound to join themselves to particular churches, when and where they have opportunity so to do; so all that are admitted unto the privileges of a church, are also under the censures and government thereof, according to the rule of Christ.

( 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14, 15 )

A. All believers are to join churches

1. There is an acknowledgement that some are not able to join churches

B. All believers are subject to church discipline according to Christ's rule

1. Addressing and issue in the day where those of a higher class might be exempt from church discipline

2. This applies to the officers of the church as well

Support Texts

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)

14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (ESV)

6 Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

2 Thessalonians 3:14–15 (ESV)

14 If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. 15 Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

## **III. The Power of Christ: His Presence in Discipline**

Para 13 - No church members, upon any offence taken by them, having performed their duty required of them towards the person they are offended at, ought to disturb any church-order, or absent themselves from the assemblies of the church, or administration of any ordinances, upon the account of such offence at any of their fellow members, but to wait upon Christ, in the further proceeding of the church.

( Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 4:2, 3 )

A. Church members must do their duty towards those who offend them

1. If a brother sins against you...
- B. If they do and no result comes, they must not absent themselves
  1. If you do your duty and there is no response and it escalates into church discipline, what do you do?
    - a) Do not absent yourself
    - b) Do not disturb church order, or administration of ordinances
      - (1) Perhaps they do not feel it is moving quickly enough
      - (2) Perhaps they are offended by evenhandedness
- C. But wait upon Christ as the church proceeds
  1. The idea is that Christ works through the church in matters of discipline - he is present!
  2. Christ is more interested in the purity of the church than we are
  3. Patience is needed in matters of church discipline

#### Support Texts

##### Matthew 18:15–17 (ESV)

15 "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. 16 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. 17 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.

##### Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV)

1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

#### **IV. Inter-Church Communion: The necessity**

Para 14 - As each church, and all the members of it, are bound to pray continually for the good and prosperity of all the churches of Christ, in all places, and upon all occasions to further every one within the bounds of their places and callings, in the exercise of their gifts and graces, so the churches, when planted by the providence of God, so as they may enjoy opportunity and advantage for it, ought to hold communion among themselves, for their peace, increase of love, and mutual edification.

( Ephesians 6:18; Psalms 122:6; Romans 16:1, 2; 3 John 8-10 )

- A. Universal Obligations
  1. Prayer
  2. Furthering the good and prosperity of all as providence provides
- B. Specific Obligations

1. Geographic considerations
2. Vocational Obligations
  - a) Share the ministry we have with one another
3. Providential Obligations
  - a) Helping one another in crisis
4. Hold Communion
  - a) For peace
  - b) For increase of love
  - c) For mutual edification
5. This is about seeing the Kingdom of God advance

#### Support Texts

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

Psalms 122:6 (ESV)

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!"

Romans 16:1-2 (ESV)

1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

3 John 8-10 (ESV)

8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. 9 I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. 10 So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

#### **V. Inter-Church Communion: The Practice**

Para 15 - In cases of difficulties or differences, either in point of doctrine or administration, wherein either the churches in general are concerned, or any one church, in their peace, union, and edification; or any member or members of any church are injured, in or by any proceedings in censures not agreeable to truth and order: it is according to the mind of Christ, that many churches holding communion together, do, by their messengers, meet to consider, and give their advice in or about that matter in difference, to be reported to all the churches concerned; howbeit these messengers assembled, are not intrusted with any church-power properly so called; or with any jurisdiction over the churches themselves, to exercise any censures either over any churches or persons; or to impose their determination on the churches or officers. ( Acts 15:2, 4, 6, 22, 23, 25; 2 Corinthians 1:24; 1 John 4:1 )

## A. Factors involved

### 1. Difficulties

#### a) In point of doctrine

(1) A question arises where a church doesn't know what to do or think

#### b) In point of administration

(1) I.e. sudden financial difficulty

### 2. Differences

#### a) In point of doctrine

(1) A need to decide between two opposing views

#### b) In point of administration

(1) A need to decide between two opposing ways

### 3. Among the churches in general

### 4. In any one church's peace union and edification

### 5. Or any member(s) of one church are injured in any wrongful discipline cases

## B. Principles involved

1. It is according to Christ's mind that

2. These churches in the established state of communion

3. Send messengers and meet together

4. Give advice on the matter

5. report to all the churches concerned

## C. Caveats

1. There is no church power in the assembly of messengers

a) Against Presbyterianism where an external body may impose upon a local church

b) Christ has authority and has given authority to the church itself

2. they have no jurisdiction over the churches

a) To exercise censures

b) To impose their determinations

c) A church may be cut off from fellowship

Support Texts

Acts 15:2 (ESV)

2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.

Acts 15:4 (ESV)

4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them.

Acts 15:6 (ESV)

6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter.

Acts 15:22 (ESV)

22 Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,

Acts 15:23 (ESV)

23 with the following letter: "The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

Acts 15:25 (ESV)

25 it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

2 Corinthians 1:24 (ESV)

24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

1 John 4:1 (ESV)

1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.