

REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Welcome to Reformation: Visitors' and New Members' Class

Lesson 1: What is the Gospel?

Lesson 2: Responding to the Gospel - Repentance and Faith

Lesson 3: The Church as the Family and Household of God

Lesson 4: Confessional Christianity

Lesson 5: Reformed & Reforming

Lesson 6: Covenant Theology

Lesson 7: Biblical Church Government - Presbyterianism

Lesson 8: Reformed Worship

Lesson 9: The Lord's Day: Living All of Life in Light of the Christian Sabbath

Lesson 10: Baptism

Lesson 11: The Lord's Supper

Lesson 12: Church Membership, The OPC, & Pastoral Care

LESSON 3
“The Church as the Main Implication of the Gospel”

Reformation Presbyterian Church, *before it is anything else is a church. But what is the church? How is it described in the Bible? And what is the relationship between the Gospel and the church?*

Introduction

- Review
- The Gospel is a message, but it is more than a message—because the Gospel is a Person, it requires a response
- Which means that, while a distinction must be made between the message of the Gospel and our response to the Gospel, strictly speaking, what Jesus is presently doing in the world can't be separated from the Gospel
- So, what is Jesus presently doing in the world today (Matt. 16:13-19)...

I. What is the Church?

A. The Biblical Term

B. Some Biblical Descriptions

1. **The Kingdom of God (Col. 1:13)**
2. **Body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12; 1 Cor. 10:16)**
3. **The Household of Faith (Eph. 3:19)**
4. **The Pillar & Ground of the Truth (1 Tim. 3:15)**

C. Theological Descriptions

1. **The Church as Visible & Invisible**
2. **The Church as Militant & Triumphant**
3. **The Church as Catholic & Apostolic**

II. What is the Relationship Between the Gospel and the Church?

- A. Christ Gave Himself for the Church**
- B. Christ is Building & Ruling His Church (Gathering, Perfecting, Governing)**
- C. The Church Exists to Worship and Bear Witness of Christ**

D. Marks of the Church

- 1. The faithful preaching of the Word**
- 2. The faithful administration of the sacraments**
- 3. The faithful exercise of church discipline**

Conclusion

- Ian Hamilton, in his book, *The Gospel-Shaped Life*, asks the question:

“Do we give to the church the place it ought to have in our lives? Are we devoted to its fellowship? Its ministry? Its purity? Its God-ordained centrality? Are you like the Psalmist who said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Ps. 122:1)?

- The church is not a social club or a voluntary organization. It is not something we simply choose to affiliate ourselves with, or not. It is the kingdom and household and temple of God (Eph. 2:19-20).
- As citizens of God's kingdom, we have rights, but we also have spiritual responsibilities. As members of God's household, we are a family, bound together by our union with Jesus Christ, not merely by a social contract.
- As the temple of God, we enjoy access to the very presence of God--but not merely as individuals, as living stones that are joined together by God in love for God and for one another.
- Is this how you see the church? If so, how does your view of the church actually shape how you live?