

BUILT ON THE WORD

A Theological Vision of Scripture, Church, and Ministry

*Let each one take care how he builds upon it.
For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
– 1 Corinthians 3:10–11 –*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for investing your time in this seminar. It is no small thing to devote a weekend to anything, and we are deeply thankful you are willing to take this time to consider church and ministry that is built on Jesus Christ. Jesus has promised to build his church *through his people* and we want to avail ourselves of all the wisdom and grace he has given in his Word. As we join together this weekend, here is our prayer.

Lord, equip us for ministries you have granted to us. Build relationships among us this weekend that will further gospel fidelity. Give us courage and conviction to stand upon your unchanging Word—all for your glory the good of your disciples—in this generation and for generations to come!

Soli Deo Gloria,

The Pastors of Grace Church,
Occoquan Bible Church,
And Redeeming Grace Church

Friday, February 28: 6:30–9:00pm

7:15–7:30pm

Introduction: How can we connect our faith and practice?

7:30–8:45pm

***What did we inherit?* The Church: Universal, Local, Ancient, and Modern**

Saturday, February 29: 8:30am–1:00pm

8:00–8:15

Coffee and pastries

8:15–8:30

Welcome and Worship in Song

8:30–9:25

***On what do we stand? Sola Scriptura* and the Sufficiency of God's Word (DS)**

9:30–9:45

Coffee Break

9:45–10:40

***What are we to do? Making Disciples Amidst the Idols of Our World* (DS)**

10:40–10:45

Stretch Break (Reset for Panel Discussion)

10:45–11:30

***What Shall We Do Now?* Cultivating a Theological Vision of Ministry (Panel)**

11:30–12:30

Breakout Lunch – **Please choose one of five options (Preaching and Teaching, Music, Counseling, Community Groups and Discipleship, Youth and Family)**

12:30–1:00pm

A Final Charge (MM)

WHAT DID WE INHERIT?

The Church: Universal, Local, Ancient, and Modern

1 Corinthians 3:1–23

You are Christ's. (v. 23)

You are the Spirit's Temple (v. 16)

You are God's fellow workers. God's field. God's building. (v. 9)

Introduction

- *Why are you here?*
- *What do you hope to learn?*
- *How do we build ministry on the Word?*

Toward a Biblical Vision of the Church

In the Bible, the word for church is *ekklēsia* is used 114 times in the New Testament.

- *Ekklēsia* has the idea of “assembly” or “gathering” – see Acts 19:32, 39, 41
- Most of these occurrences (approx. 100) refer to local churches—i.e., “the church of God in Corinth” (1 Cor 1:2) or “the churches of Galatia” (1 Cor. 16:1; Gal 1:2).
- In about 10 instances, “church” is used in a more universal sense—as in “the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria” (Acts 9:31), or in Paul’s letters to the Ephesians (1:22–23; 3:10; 5:22–33).

Jesus Three Uses of *Ekklēsia*

Matthew 16:18 – And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my **church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 18:15–17 – “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.

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The Universal Church

1 Timothy 2:19 - But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his."

Acts 9:31 – So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Ephesians 1:21–23 – far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:18 – And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Hebrews 12:22–24 – But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Ephesians 3:8–11 – To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

What is the Church For?

1. The church displays the glory, grace, and wisdom of God. (Ephesians 3:9–12)
2. Members of Christ's body display the unity of God as they learn how to walk together with one another. (Ephesians 4:1–6)
3. Teachers in the church equip the saints for the work of service. (Ephesians 4:7–11)
4. Saints in the church grow together in Christ. (Ephesians 4:13–16)
5. Maturing believers learn how to walk in holiness together. (Ephesians 4:17–24)
6. Maturing believers learn how to walk together in love. (Ephesians 4:25-5:2)
7. Maturing believers learn how to walk together in wisdom. (Ephesians 5:15-18)
8. The wisdom of God is specifically applied to areas of marriage, children, parenting, and vocation (Ephesians 5:19–6:9)
9. The church goes on mission together, proclaiming the gospel to the world. (Ephesians 6:10–17)
10. The church is a people who commit to pray for one another and for God's word to prevail in this world. (Ephesians 6:18-20)

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Metaphors for the Church

1. A Royal Embassy

Just as the United States sets up embassies in foreign nations, so Christ has established multiple embassies on the earth. These embassies are called churches.

The church is a gathering of Jesus' disciples, who are earthly witnesses of his kingdom.

Matthew 16:19–20 – I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Matthew 18:18–20 – 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.¹⁹ 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.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Matthew 28:18–20 – And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:6–8 – When they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 – Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 2:9–10 – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

2. The Temple of God's Spirit

The church is also called a temple, a place where God's Spirit dwells with his people.

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 – Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

2 Corinthians 6:16 – What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God . . .

Ephesians 2:19–22 – So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

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3. The Family of God

The church is also described as a family. In our day of fractured families, the idea of family often brings pain and confusion. But in Christ, God is creating a new family.

Matthew 19:29 – And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Mark 3:34–35 – Looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

1 Timothy 3:14–15 – I am writing these things to you so that, . . . you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.

4. The Body of Christ

The church is also a body led, nourished, and spiritually-united to Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12–14 – For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

Ephesians 5:23, 29–30 – The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, . . . For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

5. The Bride of Christ

The church experiences the covenantal love of God as Christ's bride.

2 Corinthians 11:2 – For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

Ephesians 5:31–32 – “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

6. The Flock of God

The church is gathering of those sheep whom the Lord has found and called to follow him.

John 10:16 – 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. . . . My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Acts 20:28 – Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

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The Local Church

- We experience the universal church through local churches
- We see the universal church grow through the establishment and health of local churches

What does the Local Church do?

- Church growth is Local
- Instruction is Local
- Leadership is Local
- Church Discipline is Local
- Ordinances are Local
- Care is Local

Clarifying Our Vision of the Local Church

1. Focus on the local church does not mean isolation.
2. Focus on the universal church does not mean individualistic disembodiment.
3. Focus on the local church means we are responsible for our local gathering, not for every other church
4. Focus on the universal church means we are burdened for all of Christ's people.

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The Ancient Church

What have we inherited? What holds us together?

- The New Testament Epistles
- The Post-Apostolic Fathers
- The Ecumenical Creeds
- The Reformation
- The Rise of Denominations

Why Church History Matters?

1. Knowing God
2. Knowing Ourselves
3. Knowing Our Faith
4. Knowing How to Walk by Faith . . . and how to Assemble Together

The Modern Church

How has the modern church altered our inheritance?

- Revising the Bible
- Reform-ing the Church
- Relying on New Ministry Methods

Three Words of Grace