

Sunday Evening February 25, 2024
Ephesians 1:20–23; 1 Peter 2:9–12
CHAP. XXV. - *Of the Church.*

2. The visible church, which is also catholic (that is, universal) under the gospel (that is, not confined to one nation, as it was before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world who profess the true religion, together with their children. It is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

3. To this universal, visible church Christ has given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the age. For this purpose he makes these means effectual by his own presence and Spirit, according to his promise.

6. Original: There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ; nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof; but is, that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalts himself in the church, against Christ, and all that is called God.

American: There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome be its head in any sense.

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- I. The Church Visible is the Kingdom Which Christ Rules sect 2 and 6
 - A. The Church is the Kingdom of Christ
 - 1. Jesus Preached: Christ's Kingdom Began with His First Coming
Lk. 4:43; Lk. 9:2; 10:9; Matt 13; Mk. 1:15; Lk 17:21; Jn. 3:3
 - 2. Apostles Preached: Christ's Kingdom Began with His First Coming
Ac. 8:12; Ac. 28:23; Ac. 28:30, 31; Col 1:12–14
 - B. Christ is The King. He is Supreme in Both His Church and Kingdom Eph. 1:20–23; sect 6; Col 1:18
 - 1. Sect 6 is a Polemic Against Roman Catholicism
 - 2. Sect 6 is a Polemic Against Erastianism
 - C. Christ as King Establishes Rule in His Kingdom
 - 1. To Whom Are Given the Keys of the Kingdom? Matt 16:13–19;
Rev. 1:18, 3:7; Matt. 18:18; Eph. 2:20; 1 Tim. 3:5; Rev. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:1; Ac. 20:28
 - 2. What Are the Keys of Kingdom? Ac. 2:41–47; Matt. 18:18; 1 Jn. 2:19
- II. The Church Visible is the Family Which The Christ Equips sect 3
 - A. What Has Christ Given the Church?
1 Cor. 12:28; Eph 4:11–13; Ac. 20:28; LC 63

- B. Why Has Christ Given These to the Church?
1. To Gather in God's Family—Evangelism, Missions 1 Pet. 2:9–12

 2. To Mature God's Family—Discipleship
1 Pet. 2:2–4; Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim 3:2, 9, 15; Tit. 1:9; 2 Tim. 2:2

Quotes

"[He] The Lord did not add them to the church without saving them (no nominal Christianity at the beginning), nor did he save them without adding them to the church (no solitary Christianity either). Salvation and church membership belonged together; they still do. You cannot separate the church from Biblical evangelism. It is within the scope of the church that the new spiritual life is nurtured and developed. To attempt to do so outside the church is simply not Biblical."

John Stott

WLC Q 63, Q: What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A: The visible church has the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ, to all members of it, in the ministry of the gospel, testifying that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him."