

WCF XXV: Of The Church

Warm-Up Question:

Ray gave his story of growing up in the church. Tell your story of how your life was or wasn't shaped by church, for the good or bad.

READ: John 17:6-21

I. The MARKS of the Church

- ▶ Read Exodus 6:7, John 17:6&9, and Acts 20:28. Give a definition the Church from these passages.
- ▶ A Beloved People: From John 17:23&26, describe the love that God has for you as a member of His Church.
- ▶ A Secure People: When and in what ways do you tend to most doubt God's love for you? How does your insecurity tend to come out?
- ▶ A Christ-Centered People: How does Christ's sacrifice for His church speak to any doubts of His love? How should this leave us more secure?
- ▶ An Imperfect People: How is this true? How should God's love for us enable us to be more honest about our imperfection?

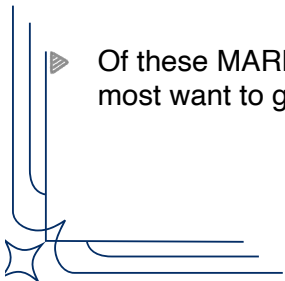
II. The MISSION of the Church

- ▶ Read John 17:18. How has God sent you into the world to be on mission? What is the mission in general?
- ▶ How do you feel God has specifically sent you on mission in this stage of your life?

- ▶ Of these MARKS and this MISSION of the Church, which would you most want to grow in? What will this take to grow in this area?

New City Catechism Q. 48 What is the Church?

A. God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.



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