



“A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.”

- *Baptist Faith and Message* (2000)

\_\_\_\_\_ : Called out ones.

### **Definition of Church:**

The Church is defined as a \_\_\_\_\_ of believers in Jesus Christ who are \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The Church is not limited to a specific building or organization, but rather encompasses all who have put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

\_\_\_\_\_ : A local assembly of all who profess faith and allegiance to Christ. Most often, the term *ekklesia* is used in reference to the local assembly. There can be many local assemblies in a given location.

[1 Thessalonians 1:1](#), [1 Corinthians 4:17](#) [2 Corinthians 11:8](#)

\_\_\_\_\_ : this is a term given to the church worldwide. In this case the idea of the church is not focused on a given assembly, but rather those globally who have given their lives to Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

# I. The Master of the Church - Jesus Christ

## **1 Corinthians 3:11 ESV**

<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

## **Colossians 1:18 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> 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.

## **Ephesians 2:19-20 ESV**

<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church. It is comprised of those whom He has purchased with His blood. The Church exists for Him, by Him and in Him. Without Jesus there is no church. He is the head of the church.

Everything we are is about Him.

Notes:

## II. The marks of a church

### 1.Membership of Baptized believers

### 2. Its Ministry

#### a. Preaching the word of God

Paul told Timothy in [2 Timothy 4:2](#) to preach the word. A true church is a church which preaches the word of God. When CVC preaches the Word of God, sometimes it can be difficult because we simply want to communicate how we best understand what God's Word says.

I once heard a professor say that there is *one* \_\_\_\_\_, but an infinite number of \_\_\_\_\_.

There are a few goals of preaching a sermon to the local assembly

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### b. Observing the Ordinances

#### c. Disciplining its members

#### d. Exercising its gifts

If you are a member of CVC, we believe that you have a responsibility to contribute in 2 ways.

1. Bless the body
2. Reach the lost.

### 3. Its Make-up

a. \_\_\_\_\_

There are different kinds of church government. As Baptists we hold to what is known as congregational rule. That is, we believe the Bible teaches that God has invested the body of believers as a whole with the authority to make decisions concerning its ongoing ministry.

*Write out a practical circle of Staff submitting to Elders, Elders submitting to congregation, and congregation submitting to Pastoral staff.*

This is a Baptist distinctive. As Great Commission Baptists we have historically held to congregational church rule.

b. \_\_\_\_\_

- elder
- deacons

#### **Elders**

Episcopos: overseer or bishop

Presbyteros: elder

Poimainein: shepherd or pastor.

Each of these three titles speak to one of the areas of the pastor's responsibility.

As an overseer, or "episcopos," the elder is charged with\_\_\_\_\_.

The "poimainein," or Shepherd, is responsible for\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ (teaching) the church.

The church has a responsibility to support, honor, and follow the leaders God gives them. If CVC appoints an Elder, they vote on who these people will be.

[Hebrews 13:17](#) says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

The office of elder is reserved for \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_: Asserts that while men and women are created equal before God, in His sovereign wisdom He has chosen specific roles for each gender which are complementary to one another.

## **Deacons**

The word deacon comes from a Greek word which was used to describe a household servant.

Within the New Testament Church the office of deacon is an office of service, not of oversight and is one which, like the office of elder, demands high standards for those who would qualify.

The bible sets forth several things deacons are to do:

1. Take care of \_\_\_\_\_ ministry.
2. Strive for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the body.
3. Support the ministry of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes:

## II. The mission of the church

\_\_\_\_\_ The mission of the church is the task that is given by God for the people of God to accomplish in the world under His authority.

### [Matthew 28:18-20](#)

#### **Matthew 28:18-20 ESV**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

<sup>19</sup> 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,

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

[Acts 14](#) gives us a three-fold view of the mission of the Church.

#### **Acts 14:21-23 ESV**

<sup>21</sup> When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

<sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

<sup>23</sup> And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

### **1. New Converts**

### **2. New Communities**

### **3. Nurtured churches**

- There are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people in the world.
- There are approximately \_\_\_\_\_ people who have never heard about Jesus Christ.
- There are over 7,000 (of 17,000) people groups that are classified as an Unreached people group (UPG)
- Approximately 20% of people on the Globe do not have a full Bible in their first language
- 75% of the world languages do not have the Full Bible in their first language.

We are closer to 2050 than we are 1990.

- Currently, there is a 1:1000 ratio of gospel preaching churches to US population
- In order to keep up with growth, we would need to see 76,000 newly planted churches to maintain the ratio.
- We are not doing so well. Although there are approximately 1,900 churches being planted a year, we are closing approximately 1,600 churches a year.

Refuge Church  
All Points Church  
King's Cross Church  
Brunswick Campus

We also support many other churches around WV, Ukraine, Ghana, Pearl Island, Mexico, as well as Northeast, Ohio.

### **Diagnostic questions to ask yourself about your role in the Local Church or Universal Church**

- Do I regularly attend worship services and participate in the worship of God?
- Am I actively involved with a community of believers with the intent of building my faith through the study of the Scriptures and growing in fellowship with other believers?
- Do I share the gospel with others and help others understand the love and power of the gospel?
- Am I actively involved with exercising my gifts to bless the body of Christ at CVC?
- Do I joyfully and sacrificially give to support the work of the local church in making disciples and caring for those in need locally and around the world?
- Do I pray for the church and the leaders that we have appointed?
- Am I actively seeking to grow in my walk with Christ by spending time with Him in word and in prayer?