



Lord's Day Worship

May 24, 2020

Opening Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Read or have someone in your home read Col. 3:12-17 aloud and then have an open time of prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy. After closing in prayer, you may begin to play the service audio or video from the church website.

Riverwood Family Greeting

Mary Beard

Elder Greeting

Brad Ford

Song of Praise

"Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah"

"The Church's One Foundation"

The Teaching of the Word

Credo – Part 16– *"The Spirit & the Church"*

Songs of Response

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud 2 Cor. 13:14

CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 16

"The Spirit & the Church"

24 May 2020

Introduction: Church Participation & Pride Month

- Over the last several decades, church attendance has declined at a fairly steady rate. At the same time, the celebration of "Pride Month" has dramatically increased in popularity and participation.

"Queerness owes its privileged status to its relationship to the therapeutic. It epitomizes three central therapeutic values: individuality, authenticity, and liberation. Individual rights, of course, have long been the beating heart of the American creed. Yet the therapeutic turns traditional American individualism into individuality, wedding the former to a romantic sensibility of the self as a unique and creative spirit whose reason for existence is its own expression." —Darel E. Paul, "Under the Rainbow Banner" in *First Things*

Key Point: In confessing the Christian faith, we recognize that we are not speaking only for ourselves as _____, but along with our brothers and sisters (past, present, & future) who comprise the universal Church of Jesus Christ!

THE APOSTLE'S CREED
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;
AND IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
FROM THE DEAD
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE
FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.
AMEN.

Important Considerations Regarding the Term "Catholic"

- By our confession that we believe in "the holy catholic Church" we **ARE NOT** referring to *Roman Catholicism*.

"Pope, hierarchy, and extrabiblical doctrines are not merely nonessential, but actually deforming; if Rome is a church (which some Reformers doubted) she is so despite the extras, not because of them. In particular, infallibility belongs to God speaking in the Bible, not to the church or to any of its officers, and any teaching given in or by the church must be open to correction by God's word written." —J.I. Packer, *Affirming the Apostle's Creed*

- By our confession that we believe in "the holy catholic Church" we **ARE** declaring that we believe in the universal company of believers who are joined together in one living union by the baptism of the Spirit.

"catholic" —

"[The Church] is a worldwide body of believers whose sole foundation is Jesus Christ, who have been entrusted with the apostles' faith and responsibilities to proclaim the gospel throughout history, knowing that it is of continued vital relevance to the human race."

—Alister McGrath, *I Believe*

The Holy Spirit: His Work

- We believe the Spirit has established the Church of Jesus Christ.

"church" — ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia) — A combination of two words *ek* (out from) and *kaleō* (to call). In both the OT and NT, it refers to an assembly that has been called together. Specifically, it refers to those who have been called out from the world and unto Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

⇒ The Lord Jesus promised that He would build His Church upon the _____ of His person & work.

Matt. 16:16-18—¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 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.

⇒ The Lord Jesus promised that He would be the one to _____ the Spirit to His people (John 16:7)

Acts 1:4-5—⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit..."

⇒ The events of _____ bring together the work of the Spirit and the proclamation of the Son (Acts 2:1-17)

Acts 2:32-33—³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Key Point: The Holy Spirit is the one who sets believers apart from _____, uniting them together with one another in Jesus Christ as His Church.

- We believe that the Church the Spirit has established is *holy*.

⇒ *The Holy Spirit has sanctified the Church* _____.

1 Cor. 6:9-11—⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

⇒ *The Holy Spirit is sanctifying the Church* _____.

2 Cor. 3:18—And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Key Point: The Holy Spirit is at work in the Church to set us apart from the world for the purpose of _____ to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“The deep irony is that the signs of sin that attach to the church are indirect evidences of its holiness. It could not be a holy church if it had clean hands, as if separated from its mission and task of saving sinners...The very purpose of the church is the transformation of sinners; hence the paradoxical proximity of sin to the church.”
—Thomas Oden, *Classic Christianity*

- We believe that the Church the Spirit has established is *one*.

⇒ *The Church of Jesus Christ is* _____.

- * This includes both believers from around the world as well as those in heaven.

Rev. 5:9—And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation

Heb. 12:23a—and to the assembly [church] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven

⇒ *The Church of Jesus Christ is* _____.

- * This refers to the local churches in various areas of which we are aware.

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.

⇒ *The Church of Jesus Christ is* _____.

- * This is a reference to the particular assembly of believers with which we gather for worship and fellowship.

Col. 4:15—Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

The Characteristics of a Local Church

1. It gathers regularly for worship and fellowship.

Acts 2:42—And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

The Word is _____ (2 Tim. 4:2), _____ (Col. 3:16), _____ (Matt. 28:19), & _____ (1 Tim. 2:8)

2. It gathers under the leadership of qualified men (1 Tim. 3:1-13) who are appointed to their roles (Acts 6:3; Titus 1:5).

The word is _____ (Matt. 18:15-20)

Key Point: All _____ of the universal Church should recognize their place among the visible church and join themselves clearly to a local church.

Concluding Thoughts

1. In a world focused on individuality, we do well to focus on our _____ identity.

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

2. Our collective identity guards us from building our identity around our _____ desires.

Eph. 4:17-24—¹⁷Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!—²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.