

Session 7

The Church

7.1. The Gathering of God's People

- God's Relationship with Adam and Eve (Genesis 2)
- God calling Abram to be a blessing to many nations (Genesis 12:1-3)
- God's Consecration of the People of Israel (Exodus 19)
- Jesus Calling the Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)
- Jesus centering the church on Peter's Confession (Matthew 16:18)
- The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)

7.2. The Beginning of the Church

- *The Book of Acts* - how should it be read? These are things that happened and some of them constitute patterns we see throughout the rest of the New Testament writings. It is mainly descriptive of what happened but insofar as it is repeated in the Epistles, it is also prescriptive models.
- *The Commission of the Church*: The proclamation of Jesus to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:6-8)
- *The Preaching of the Church*: centered on the death and resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:14-40; 3:12-26; 4:5-12; 7; 8:5; 10:28-47; 11:4-18; 13:16-41; 14:3-7; 17:22-35; 24:10-21; 26:2-23)
- *The Character of the Church* (Acts 2:42): Focused on the Apostle's teaching, fellowship of believers, breaking of bread, and prayer.

- *The Integration of the Church*: Acts 15 describes how the Jewish and Gentiles could come together in Jesus Christ as Lord.

7.3. Issues Emerging from the Early Church

- *Gentile Believers not required to follow OT ceremonial laws* (Acts 15; Galatians)
- *Church discipline* for believers in public unrepented sin (Acts 5; 1 Cor 5).
- *The Use of Spiritual gifts* and the question of tongues and healing (1 Cor 12-14)
- *The Lord's Supper* (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11)
- *Church Leadership* (1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-11): church is led by elders and deacons
- *Meeting on the first day of the Week* as the Lord's Day (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2)
- *The Church's relationship to civil government* (Romans 13:1-7; Acts 4:18).
- *Church Membership*: accountability, declaration of participation in community, and responsibility to fellow church members.
- *Baptism of believers* in the early church.
- *Division in the Church* (1 Cor 1/3; Ephesians 3)
- *Concern for the poor* (Gal. 2:10; 6:10; 2 Corinthians 8)

7.4. Controversy between Various Church

- *Roman Catholic Church*: The Pope, the role of tradition, and liturgy.
- *The Lutheran Church*: The Normative principle of Worship
- *The Reformed Church*: The Regulative principle of Worship and the distinction between the visible and the invisible church.