

## **The Formation and Function of the Church**

### **Lesson 13**

#### **I. Indicators of a Healthy, Biblically Centered Church**

##### **A. Essential Indicators**

1. Expository Preaching – how we are taught
2. Biblical Theology – what we are taught
3. A Biblical Gospel – God centered not man centered

##### **B. Important Marks**

1. A Biblical Understanding of Conversion - A Work of Grace
  - a. Sermons - to the saved and the unsaved
  - b. Baptism – not done hastily
  - c. The Lord's Supper – most intimate fellowship activity
  - d. Membership – responsible accountability
  - e. Church Discipline – accountability in dealing with sin in the body
2. A Biblical View of Evangelism – authentic or synthetic?
3. A Biblical Understanding of Church Leadership – Mature Under shepherds
4. A Biblical View of Membership
5. A Biblical View of Church Discipline
6. A Biblical Understanding of Church Growth and Expansion

## II. A Biblical View of Membership

A. Of course we believe in the invisible Church, evident to God's eye alone, but we are told to accept the visible Church and remain in communion with it. (John Calvin)

### B. In the New Testament

1. 1 Timothy 5
2. I Corinthians 5:1
3. Phil. 4:3; Rev. 21:27) – Heaven's Record
4. A weakness of the church today

### C. Responsibilities of Church membership

1. A commitment to worship together – Hebrews 10: 23-25
2. A commitment to obey church leaders – Hebrews 13:17
3. A commitment to hold them accountable – Hebrews 13:7
4. A commitment to being held accountable – Eph. 4:11-16
5. An affirmation of true saving faith – Jude 1-4
6. A responsibility to proactive the "One Another Commands"
  - a. See Handout