

The Formation and Function of the Church

Lesson 9

- I. Indicators of a Healthy, Biblically Centered Church
 - A. Essential Indicators
 1. Expository Preaching
 2. Biblical Theology
 - a. Expository Preaching deals with how we are taught;
 - b. Biblical Theology deals with what we are taught
 3. A Biblical Gospel
 - a. See handout “The Focus of the Gospel”
 - B. Important Issues and Marks – The First London Confession of Faith (1646 edition), The Westminster Confession of Faith (1646); The New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833); The 39 Articles of Faith (Bishop John Rogers edition, 2011).
 1. A Biblical understanding of conversion
 - a. See handout “The Focus of the Gospel”
 2. A Biblical view of conversion will manifest itself in the following:
 - a. Sermons – preaching to the “sheep and goats” – the saved and the lost
 - b. Baptism – not hastily
 - c. The Lord’s Supper – most intimate fellowship activity
 - d. Membership – examination of testimony of saving faith
 - e. Church Discipline – accountability in dealing with sin
 3. A Biblical view of evangelism
 - a. See handout “The Focus of the Gospel”