

# **THEOLOGY II: Doctrine of The Church**

## **Session 1 - Nature of the Church - Dr. Jeremy Kimble**

Our worldview is shaped by theology & the Bible.

### **KEY QUESTIONS**

- What is the nature of the church?
- What is the purpose of the church?
- What is the history of the church?
- What is the polity (church governance) of the church?
- What are the mission and ministries of the church?
- What are the ordinances of the church?

### **CEDARVILLE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

- We believe that the local church is a gathered congregation of believers, associated by covenant, practicing self-governance, and observing the ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. The church is to be committed to the authority of the Word of God in matters of doctrine and practice. God calls certain men to be pastors, providing spiritual leadership for the church. Deacons, likewise, minister to the church body through specific acts of service. We believe that the universal church consists of all who have saving faith in Christ. As the body of Christ, the church is to fulfill His mission of making disciples throughout the world. Matthew 18:15-17, 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 12:12-28; 7:17; 11:16; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:14,15; 4:11-16; 5:23-32; 1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1-15.

### **INTRODUCTION**

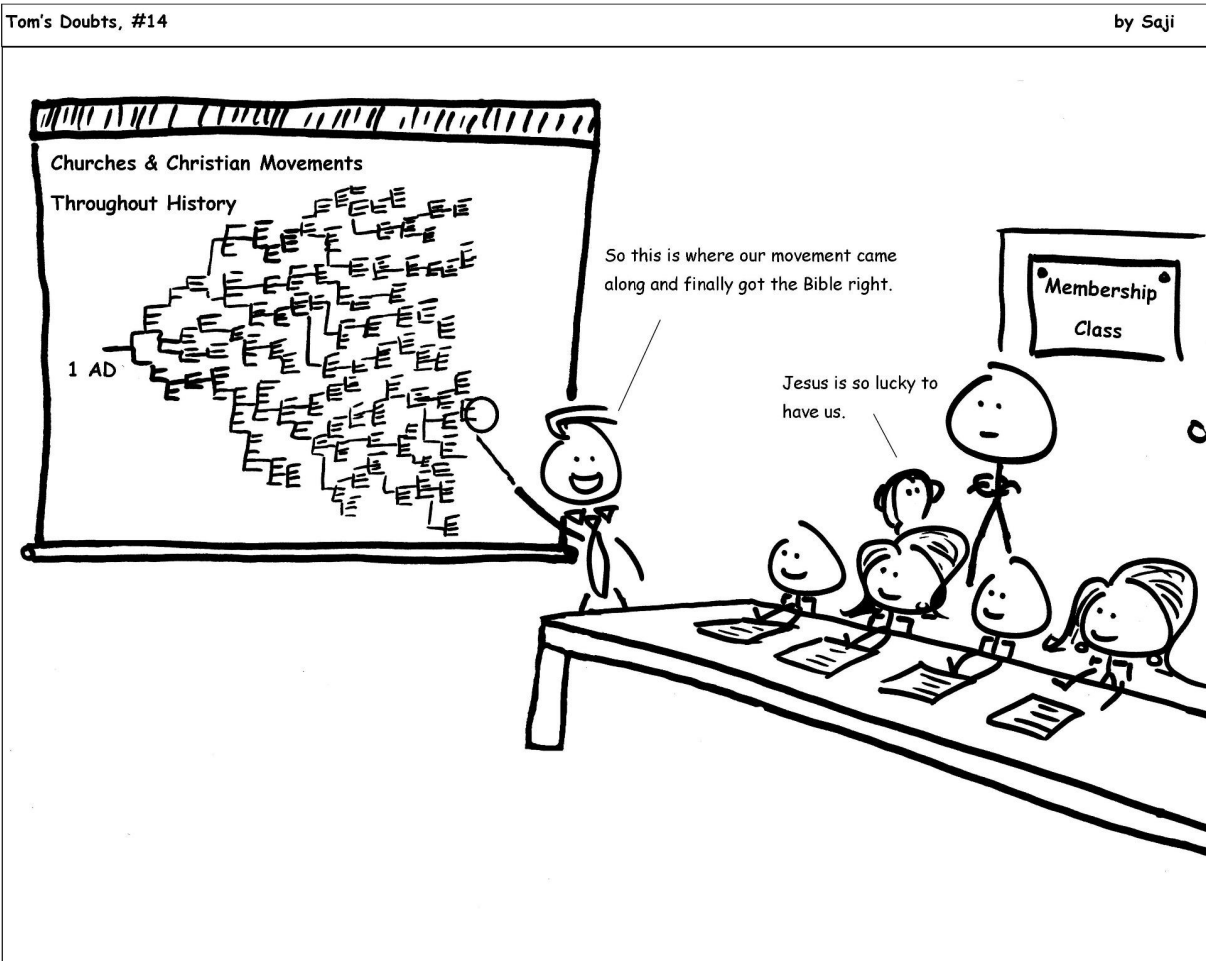
Discussion:

- What was your church like growing up? Did you choose a different kind of church when you came here? Why or why not?
- What do you love about the (local) church?
- Can someone be a Christian and not be involved in a church?

### **CHURCH**

- People
- Doctrinal affirmations
- Worship - music, preaching, prayer, giving
- Leadership
- Ordinances - what makes a church visible. Baptism, Lord's Supper
- Ongoing assembly

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **encouraging one another** - and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25*



## INTRODUCTION

- In all seriousness, we should value a **robust** ecclesiology. Despite the anti-denominational attitude of many Christians today ("I'm not a Baptist, I'm a Christian"), it is impossible to actually do ministry without making some **ecclesiological decisions** that will align you more closely with some denominations, and exclude you from others. (Ecclesiological: theology as applied to the nature and structure of the Christian Church)
- Christ founded the church, purchased it with his blood, and identifies himself with it. It is the **body of Christ**, the **dwelling place** of the Spirit, and the chief means of glorifying the Father. The church is the gospel made **visible**.
- We begin with how Scripture conceives of the people of God across the Testaments, as well as the nature of the church.

## BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

- Dispensational Theology
  - Progressivde Dispensationalism
- Covenant Theology
  - Progressive Covenantalism

Classical Dispensationalism  
Discontinuity  
Israel & Church

Theonomy/Reconstructionism  
OT law should still be applied  
today in church & society. Continuity

Israel & Church  
Eternally separate Jews & Gentiles

Israel & Church  
So similar we should stone everyone

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Revised... Progressive...

Progressive... Covenant

- **Has major bearing on how you interpret certain things.**
  - Jeremiah 31 Is the New Covenant Promise is only for Ethnic Jews?... 2 Cor 3, Heb 8,9,10 tell me I can claim it even if I'm not an ethnic Jew.
  - Is Amos, Jeremiah, Ezekiel... is that for Israel? Is that for Christians?

## BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

- Israel is the nation that is **descended** from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Gen 12:1-3).
- God **chose** them as His special people (Deut 7:6-11) and gave them His **Law**.
- Many **covenants** and **promises** were made to Israel in the OT, and God will fulfill all of these, either in the **millennium** or **new creation**.
- Israel largely **rejected** Jesus as Messiah, making way for the Gentiles, but God has a **future plan** for the Jews as well. (Rom 11:11-32)
- The church is the **new covenant** people of God who have been saved through **repentance** and **faith** in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-41) and incorporated into his body through baptism with the **Spirit** (1 Cor 12:12-13).
- The church can be seen as both local and universal. (throughout history/around the world)
- As a **connected** but **distinct** people from Israel, we should still recognize that the OT, though much is fulfilled through Christ, is still **applicable** to us in many ways (1 Cor 10:1-6), and is part of our story.