

Week #10 Exercise - Personal Beliefs about the Church

Systematic Theology

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I believe the definition of The Church is all believers of all time. I believe that the purpose of the Church is to first and foremost glorify God but also nurture believers and minister to unbelievers by showing them who God is.

I believe that the church and Israel in the Old Testament are both part of the body of Christ. Israelites saved under the old covenants are still saved and part of the family of God just like believers that are saved under the new covenant today. I believe that under the new covenant we are not bound by the rules that the Israelites of the Old Testament were bound by.

I believe in the Congregational style of church organization which means the congregation has the power and authority. The members of the church should be able to vote on candidates for the various leadership positions in the church.

I believe water baptism is an outward expression of internal spiritual commitment to follow Jesus. Water baptism is a symbolic representation of us being buried with Christ under the water and being raised to life when coming out of the water. I believe participating in the Lord's Supper causes us to remember Jesus' sacrifice and its meaning. We claim Jesus' sacrifice until he returns. The bread and wine is symbolic of Jesus' body and blood.

I believe that both men and women have the ability to have leadership roles in the church. God created men and women with different strengths and weaknesses but both are made in the image of God and bear his likeness.