

CPC Adult Sunday Studies

Fall 2025

Total Christ: The Full Vision for His Church

1 | Introduction

Introduction: The Mission of Christ and the Church

Read Acts 2:22-47

- What is Peter's argument about *who* Christ is and *where* Christ is now?
- What is the proper response recorded here to Christ's exaltation? What did these first disciples specifically do?
- What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this passage?
- "Five Marks" at CPC means gospel-centered, missional, confessional, sacramental, and communal. Where do you see each of these in this passage?

Read Matthew 28:16-20

- "All authority" - Christ is King (*communal*) because of what He has done once for all (*gospel-centered*)
- "Make disciples" is the main verb of v. 19 and the main overall mission of the church. We are to do that by:
 - "Going" (v.19) - on the move, no longer constrained to Israel, hence "all nations" (*missional*)
 - "Baptizing" (*sacramental*)
 - "Teaching" (*confessional*)
- Christ-centered - what Christ commanded, baptized into the name, and in/with Christ's presence

John 14:12 - *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."*

- Why "because..."? Once Christ goes to the Father, He will send the Spirit, enabling the church to do "greater works" because the presence of God in Christ will be global through the church.

Augustine wrote, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us; to that flesh is joined the church, and there is made *total Christ*, both head and body."

“Five Marks” at CPC also means we hope to experience the FULLNESS of Christ, not just one emphasis or pendulum swing!

1. **Gospel-Centered:** Trust in the gospel motivates us to be humble because we know Christ's work to us is purely a gift, but also boldly confident in the face of shame and sin because it's based in God's power! This grounds us in God's finished work on the cross, where he forgave our sins and reconciled us to himself. Everything we do is motivated from and by the gospel. *Think:* Humble, honest, authentic, gracious, safe, desire to be truly known and loved by God and others
2. **Missional:** More (though not less!) than being evangelistic, we strive to be missional because God promises to dwell with His people in all their God-given cultures, languages, and demographics through the church. This grounds us in God's global presence, where the church is the evangelist for a whole new way of life, showing the world who Jesus is and what it means to follow Him in all our relationships. *Think:* Culturally self-aware, open & inviting, purposeful, holistic evangelism
3. **Confessional - Christ as our Prophet:** We are not the first ones to consider what church should be (thank God!). We humbly submit to God's revelation in the Word as it has been historically interpreted, seeking to be united in belief across generations and cultures. Officially, we subscribe to the documents of Westminster (c.1630) as the summary of our faith. This grounds us in Christ as our Prophet who still speaks. *Think:* doctrine that is alive and an unwillingness to be distracted by cultural fads
4. **Sacramental - Christ as our Priest:** Christ is "fleshed out" in a carefully designed four movement worship service that follows the logic of the gospel and culminates every week in a participation in eucharistic communion with Christ. Jesus is experienced in the body of Christ through different cultural styles specific to each local community. *Think:* Friendly, worshipful, mysterious
5. **Communal - Christ as our King:** Christ did not leave us as orphans, but joined us with Himself to the church, so to be a Christian is to be a part of the redeemed community. Many of us experience Christ first through the love of his body. We also take church government as an instrument of mercy seriously. This grounds us in Christ as our King. *Think:* loving, humble accountability and one-anothering

Total Christ Church and Spirituality

Gospel-Centered	Missional
Christ our Prophet (Confessional) - Word	
Christ our Priest (Sacramental) - Sacrament	
Christ our King (Communal) - Discipline	

*“Discipline” includes all the ways that Christ our King calls us to himself, through teaching, accountability, and church government.

Total Christ Church and Spirituality*

	Gospel-Centered	Missional
Christ our Prophet	Gospel of grace; preaching; revelation; humble submission to Word	Preaching in our language; translation; understandable in context; at all times
Christ our Priest	Once-for-all sacrifice; Jesus intercedes on our behalf; assurance of Presence	Sacramental worship; local and contextualized; participatory with full emotions and Temple
Christ our King	Gracious government, shepherding; overcoming sin; life-on-life discipleship	Mercy; holistic empowerment; ecclesial evangelist

*Note: this table is meant to show how the marks dynamically interact with one another, but none of them can truly be limited to one box. Hence the dotted lines.

“Experimental” Application of the Covenant & Temple Paradigm

You never have one without the other - as Pastor Graham would say, in all of redemptive history you would always have BOTH a covenant and a temple, or a promise sealed and a place where that promised was applied.

1	<u>Covenant (Gospel-centered)</u>	<u>Temple (Missional)</u>
2	Word	Flesh
3	Global	Local
4	Forensic/Legal	Participatory
5	Proclamation	Participation
6	Elements	Forms
7	Justification	Sanctification
8	Work of Christ	Person of Christ
9	Agape	Eros
10	Light	Heat
11	Paradigm	Power
13	Message	Medium
14	Dialogue	Dance
15	Structure	Style
16	Pilgrim (Andrew Walls)	Indigenous (Andrew Walls)
17	Redemption?	Creation?
18	Truth	Love
19	Once-for-all	Continual
20	Memorial	Presence
21	Objective	Subjective

*Note: some of these are better categorized than others, so this chart is meant to give more of a “feel” for the tendencies of each, rather than strict dichotomies, just as you can never fully separate the *Work* from the *Person* of Christ.