

# SERMON OUTLINE notes

•••••	 	
••••••	 	
••••••	 	
••••••	 	
•••••	 	
•••••	 	
•••••	 	

#### I. THE CHURCH IS A STRUCTURED ORGANISM (Ephesians 2:19-22)

- A. God is concerned with order (Titus 1:5; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Colossians 2:5)
- B. God is concerned with growth (Ephesians 4:15-16; 2 Peter 3:18)

#### II. BY WORD AND SPIRIT. THE CHURCH GROWS AND IS GOVERNED

- A. The invisible church—the church as God sees it (John 3:5-8)
  - 1. We often cannot see the work of God to build His church (Mark 4:26-29)
  - 2. But we know the means by which He does it (Acts 6:7; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 4:12-13)
  - 3. God knows who are His (2 Timothy 2:17-19; John 10:14-15, 27-30)
- B. The visible church—the church as believers see it (Acts 14:23, 27-28)
  - 1. We can see the organization and ordering of the church (Titus 1:5)
  - 2. We can see those who attend church, but we cannot see into a person's heart to know their spiritual condition (Matthew 7:15-16; 2 Corinthians 13:5)
  - 3. We do our best to discern God's will in the visible church (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7-9, Acts 15:22, 28)

#### III. THE ORGANIZED CHURCH (1 Corintbians 14:40; Titus 1:5)

- A. An orderly church government
  - 1. Episcopalian
  - 2. Presbyterian
  - 3. Congregational
- B. An orderly church gathering

## IV. IN COMMUNION, WE ARE REMINDED OF HOW JESUS BUILDS HIS CHURCH (Matthew 16:15-18; Colossians 1:13-14, 19-23)



### **SERMON REFLECTIONS**

1. When you think of the "church", what is the primary thing that comes to mind? How much does the organizational aspect of the church factor in your thinking?

2. What is the "visible church"? What is the "invisible church"? Why is that distinction made?

3. How would you describe the visible and invisible church and its relationship with the organizational and organic nature of the church?

4. How does the church govern itself and also grow? How does this play out practically in a local church?

5. To the best of your knowledge, how is our church (GHCC) governed? Does it matter whether someone knows how their church is governed? Why, or why not?

### Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.