Ecclesiology, the Study of the Church, Outline, Trending, 11/6/15

1. Meaning of the Church
   a. Matthew 16:18, founded upon the statement in Matthew 16:16
      i. “ekklesia”, called out public assembly
         2. Civic Gathering, Acts 19:39
         3. Christian church, public assembly called out by God for worship
   b. 1 Corinthians 1:2, 16:19, local assembly of professing Christians consisting of
      i. Believers
      ii. Make-believers
      iii. Matthew 13:36-43, as illustrative of the point
   c. Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, universal church
      i. Body of Christ, all believers are members, Ephesians 4:4-6
      ii. Made up of all born again, Spirit-baptized New Testament believers
         1. John 3:6, spiritual birth
         2. Ephesians 1:13, Spirit baptism accompanies salvation

2. Dispensation of the Church

3. The Church is not Israel
   a. Covenant relationship is different (Galatians 3:23-25), law vs. grace
   b. Romans 11 draws a distinction between the church and Israel, we reject replacement theology, the teaching that the church replaced Israel
      i. Promises made to Israel remain unfulfilled
      ii. Messianic Kingdom (Context for Ezekiel 40-48, for instance)
   c. What about Galatians 6:15-16, “Israel of God”
      i. These are New Testament Jewish believers in Messiah, context is king here.

4. How the Church is Built (Foundational verse of the Bible, 1 Corinthians 3:11)
   a. Cornerstone is Jesus Christ, Ephesians 2:20
   b. Apostles and Prophets, foundational ministry of leading the infant church on earth after Pentecost, Ephesians 2:20
      i. Ministry fulfilled with the writing of the New Testament Scriptures
   c. Scripture, God’s objective truth
      i. Salvation, 2 Timothy 3:15
      ii. Christian maturity, 2 Timothy 3:16-17
   d. Role of God the Holy Spirit
      i. Indwelling believers, 1 Corinthians 3:16
      ii. Guiding believers, John 16:7-14
         1. Conviction of sin
         2. Leading towards righteous fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)
         3. Magnifying God the Son
5. Mission of the Church
   a. Great Commission, Matthew 28:18-20
   b. Proclamation of the Gospel, Acts 1:8
      i. Object of Christian faith, John 3:16
      ii. Content of Christian faith, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
   c. Litmus test of ministry, to what extent does the church meet the mission

6. Purpose of the Local Church
   a. Acts 2:42
      i. Apostle’s doctrine, 2 Timothy 4:2
      ii. Fellowship, Hebrews 10:24
      iii. Breaking of Bread, Acts 20:7
      iv. Prayer, James 5:13-14
   b. Some other purposes
      i. Discipline, Matthew 18:17
      ii. Accountability, 1 Peter 5:1-5
      iii. Christian love and Edification, Hebrews 10:24
      iv. Context in which spiritual gifts are used, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

7. Necessity of Participation in a local assembly
   a. Christ’s institution, Matthew 16:18
   b. Direct Command, Hebrews 10:25
   c. Biblical Precedent, 1 Corinthians 1:2
   d. Unified corporate public witness, Matthew 16:18

8. Conclusion: The church universal and local should be:
   a. Christ-centered
   b. Bible-based
   c. Spirit-led
   d. Gospel-driven
   e. Outward-focused
   f. Prayer-full
   g. Publicly-witnessing