

Lecture 16 – The Doctrine of the Church: Historical Theology of the Church

The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.

Westminster Confession of Faith XXV.1

Key Terms

Unam Sanctum, Wycliffe, Jan Hus, Augsburg Confession, Scots Confession, Belgic Confession, Westminster Confession, marks of the church

Lecture Objectives

- To trace the major developments in the doctrine of the church throughout its history
- To describe the marks of the church as they have been articulated at different points in history
- To appreciate the impact that the cultural-historical context has upon the way we express our understanding of the church

Preview

In our last lecture we began our study of the church by looking at the biblical pictures: the people of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. We moved from biblical theology to historical theology and began surveying church fathers, creeds, and confessions from church history. This lesson will continue this rich study of historical theological development concerning the doctrine of the church. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

The Doctrine of the Church: Historical Theology of the Church

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. The Doctrine of Election

III. The Doctrine of the Church

A. The nature of the church

1. Three pictures

2. Historical theology

a. Cyprian

b. Augustine

*c. Boniface, *Unum Sanctum* (1302)

d. Wycliffe (c. 1329-1384)

e. Jan Hus (1373-1415)

f. Augsburg Confession (1530)

g. Scots Confession (1560)

h. Belgic Confession (1561)

i. Westminster Confession (1646)

B. The marks of the church: Word, sacraments, discipline

1. Historically

a. Luther (1483-1546)

b. Augsburg Confession (1531)

c. Geneva Confession (1536)

d. Belgic Confession (1561)

e. Scots Confession (1560)

f. Westminster Confession (1646)