

Lecture 20 – The Doctrine of the Church: The Service of the Church

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9-10

Key Terms

Protection, discipline, separation, worship, evangelism, edification, diaconal ministry

Lecture Objectives

- To list and describe the four elements of the service of the church
- To articulate the relationship between what the church is and the service it's called to
- To identify some of the practical implications of the service of the church for the church members life and ministry

Preview

In our last lecture we studied the last two attributes of the church, catholicity and apostolicity. We also began a three-point excursus on church discipline. We will pick up the third point here observing four biblical principles regarding heretics in the church. We will also focus on what the church *does* by discussing the service of the church. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

The Doctrine of the Church: The Service of the Church (cont.)

I. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. The Doctrine of Election

III. The Doctrine of the Church

A. The nature of the church

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

C. Attributes of the church

1. Unity

2. Sanctity

3. Catholicity

4. Apostolicity

5. Excursus on the marks and attributes of the church

a. Terminology

b. A theological perspective on degrees of error

*c. Biblical principles

1) The duty of pastors

a) Acts 20:28-31

b) Titus 1:9

2) Heretics ought to leave the church

a) 1 John 2:18-19

3) Churches should discipline heretics who do not leave

a) Titus 3:10-11

b) 2 Peter 2:1-3, 9

4) Christians ought to separate from a church that rejects the marks of the church

a) 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

D. The service of the church

1. Worship
 - a. 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - b. Romans 15:5-6
2. Evangelism
 - a. John 20:21-23
 - b. Romans 15:16-17
3. Edification
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:12
 - b. 1 Peter 4:10-11
4. Diaconal ministries
 - a. Acts 6:1-7
 - b. Galatians 2:10
 - c. James 1:27; 2:15-16
 - d. 1 John 3:16-18