

## Lecture 22 – The Doctrine of the Church: Church Government & Presbyterian Churches

*And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. Acts 8:1*

### Key Terms

House church, metropolitan church, provincial church, ecumenical church, regulative principle, organic principle, parity and plurality, local church, regional church, whole church

### Lecture Objectives

- To identify and trace the biblical precedent for various modern organizing of the church
- To list and explain the principles used to organize Presbyterian churches
- To describe the governance of various levels of church organizations
- To discuss the relative merits of Presbyterian church order in terms of scriptural principles

### Preview

We are progressing through our study of what the church *does*. This lecture will begin our study of the government of the church by focusing on the biblical expression of the church from local, to metropolitan, to provincial, to ecumenical. We will also observe the distinctives of Presbyterian church structure. Prior outline points have been listed for continuity.

## The Doctrine of the Church: Church Government & Presbyterian Churches

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

D. The service of the church

\*E. The government of the church

1. New Testament churches

a. House churches

b. Metropolitan churches

c. Provincial churches

d. The Ecumenical church

2. Presbyterian churches

a. Theology

1) The regulative principle

2) The organic principle

3) The parity and plurality of leadership

b. Church order

1) Local church and its session

2) Regional church and its presbytery

3) Whole church and its general assembly