

Theme: The Church is the Body, Bride, and Temple of Christ, the community of all true believers for all time, and all Christians are called to be part of local churches where they worship, care for one another, and serve God's purposes in the world together.

## **I. The Church - The Community of Believers**

- A. Theme: The Church is the community of those who have personally responded to the Gospel, gather for worship, and care for one another.
- B. Text: Acts 2:36-47
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Revelation 1:4-6
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; community; fellowship

## **II. The Church - The Body of Christ**

- A. Theme: The Church is the Body of Christ, in which believers are united with one another and with Jesus Christ, their Head and source of life.
- B. Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Ephesians 3:20-21
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; union with Christ; community; fellowship; Holy Spirit

## **III. The Church - The Bride of Christ**

- A. Theme: The Church is the Bride of Christ, Whom He loves and for Whom He gives Himself that she might be glorious, full of the beauty of holiness.
- B. Text: Ephesians 5:22-33
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; Jesus; covenant; eschatology

## **IV. The Church - The Temple of God**

- A. Theme: The Church is God's Temple, where He dwells by His Spirit as His people gather to worship and live in holiness and unity.
- B. Text: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:5-6
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; tabernacle and temple; Holy Spirit; holiness; unity; worship; typology

## **V. The Church - The Communion of Saints**

- A. Theme: The Church is the communion of the saints, all of those in every age who have been united to Christ in faith and draw their life from Him, and who are therefore spiritually united with one another now and in eternity.
- B. Text: John 10:16; Hebrews 12:22-24
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Revelation 22:21
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; union with Christ; Israel; eschatology

## **VI. The Church - Universal and Local**

- A. Theme: All Christians are called to be part of local churches where they are led and cared for by elders, worship God, learn the Scripture, receive the sacraments, pray together, serve one another, and carry out the Great Commission together.
- B. Text: 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; Acts 14:23
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Romans 15:5-6, 33
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; community; fellowship; leadership

## **VII. The Church - Elders**

- A. Theme: Each local church must have a group of elders who shepherd the flock by God's Word, are servant leaders for those under their care, set a godly example in character and conduct, and point people to Jesus, the Chief Shepherd.
- B. Text: 1 Peter 5:1-7
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; leadership

## **VIII. The Church - The Community of Worship**

- A. Theme: Worship is the assembly of the local church where God speaks to us through His Word, meets and strengthens us in the sacraments, and we respond as a community in spoken and sung prayers.
- B. Text: Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction:
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; worship; means of grace

## **IX. The Church - God's Nation of Exiles**

- A. Theme: The Church is God's Nation in the world today, comprised of believers from every earthly nation, scattered throughout every earthly nation, and with ultimate loyalty and affection reserved for God and His kingdom.
- B. Text: 1 Peter 1:1-2; 2:9-12; 5:13-14
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Genesis 12:2-3
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; two kingdoms; citizenship; exile and return

## **X. The Church - The Persecuted Community of Faith**

- A. Theme: The Church is the community of those who are God's people through faith in Christ and are therefore exiles in this world. Consequently, they must persevere through suffering and persecution, knowing God is worth far more than this passing age.
- B. Text: Hebrews 11
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Psalm 20:1-4
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; persecuted church; suffering; heavenly citizenship

## **XI. The Church - The Community of Servanthood**

- A. Theme: The local church community is where we are taught humble servanthood as a virtue, where we practice acts of servanthood, and where our souls are shaped so that our whole life becomes characterized by the attitude and practices of servanthood.
- B. Text: Galatians 5:13-15
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; service; humility and pride

## **XII. The Church - God's People On Mission Together**

- A. Theme: The Church has been given the Spirit to empower us to be on mission together, taking the Gospel forth and displaying the love of God to others from our location to the ends of the earth.
- B. Text: Luke 4:16-19; Luke 24:45-49
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:58
- E. Teaching keywords: Church; catechism; evangelism and missions; great commission; mercy ministry