

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2008

From: Bill Stroop

RE: Study Questions for the last class of *“What Do Christians’ Really Believe?”* April 27

The topic for the last class November 3 in this series is “Church.” You might find it helpful to look at a concordance for the word “church.” One might think that “church” would be a word used with some frequency in the New Testament. But, outside of the epistles, “church” is used only in the Gospel of Matthew. The term was not used by Mark, Luke, and John.

In the epistles, “church” is found in Acts, Rom, 1 Cor, 2 Cor, Gal, Eph, Php, Col, 1 Thess, 2 Thess, 1 Ti, Phm, Jas, 1 Pe, 3 Jn, and Rev. Most references to “church” are in Acts; 1 Cor 11, 14, and 16; 2 Cor 8, Eph 5, and Rev 2 and 3.

Questions we might ask about “church” are:

1. What is relationship between Christ and “church?”
2. What does the word “church” connote to us today?
3. What are the classical ‘marks’ of the church?
4. What are the sacraments of the church? What do they represent?

Class #7 (The Last Class)

Church

- **What is relationship between Christ and “church?”**
- **What does the word “church” connote to us today?**
- **What are the classical ‘marks’ of the church?**
- **What are the sacraments of the church? What do they represent?**

Classical Marks of “Church”

One

Conformity or community?

Unity

Denominationalism

Holy

Being set aside

Faithful pursuit of goals

Catholic

Universal

Vincentian canon: “What is true is what has been true for all people for all time, for all places”

New views of apostolicity

Apostolic

Continuity through time

Becomes authoritarian

Can faithfulness to mission be apostolic?