



King's Cross Talks

CL102: The Basic Ingredients of a Church



The church is not a new and cutting-edge invention. There are common ingredients shared by every church. This talk explores what makes a church a church, and what makes King's Cross a church in the Presbyterian tradition. This talk is one of two talks that ordinarily prepare for King's Cross membership.

A. Welcome and Introduction

1. A Christian Vocabulary: Orthodox, Protestant, Reformed (4)
conversion, covenant, law, sacraments
Christian, Gospel
2. This class in particular

B. What you expect to hear

1. History

Organized as a mission church in September 2016
Planted by the Potomac Presbytery (funding 2016-2020)
Genetic connection with McLean Presbyterian Church
Particularized in 2022.

2. Vision and Values

King's Cross is a community of people called to be in Eastern Loudoun County to *fully enjoy* and *sincerely share* the life, grace, and restoration that can only be found in Jesus.

Gather: The people of King's Cross are united into God's story of redemption to *participate in* the Christ-centered life and *invite others* into this family of grace.
[participate in] [invite others]

Glorify: The people of King's Cross devote every thought, action, and affection to Jesus through *biblical worship* and *outpouring service* to friends, neighbors, and strangers.
[biblical worship] [outpouring service]

Grow: The people of King's Cross endeavor with gratitude and obedience to *grow into* the likeness of Jesus and *display through* everyday life, private and public.

[grow into] [display through]

3. Sunday morning worship

New Testament gatherings

- Some synagogue practices remained.
- By 60 AD, they began neglecting to come together (Heb. 10.25).
- They gathered on the first day of the week (Ac. 20.7). The *collection of money* was the first day of the week, for all of the churches (1 Cor. 16.2), inspired by the resurrection appearances (Jn. 20.19).
- Teaching of the apostles, *fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer* (Acts 2.42-47).
- There is *singing* from the heart: *psalms, hymns, spiritual songs* (Eph. 5.19; Col. 3.16), a practice of Jesus (Mt. 26.30; Mk. 14.26).
- By AD 55, when you come together, each one has a *hymn, lesson, revelation, tongue, or an interpretation* (1 Cor. 14.26).
- Speaking that was done in *order* was a priority (1 Cor. 14.40).
- Women played a submissive role in worship (1 Cor. 14.33-35).

Old Testament covenant renewal ceremonies

- Among first generation Hebrews in Exodus 24.1-18, with allusions in Heb. 9.19 (sprinkling of blood), 1 Cor. 11.25 (cup of the new covenant), 2 Cor. 3.3 (written on hearts), and 2 Cor. 3.18 (veiled face). After their failure, there was another intercession / renewal cycle (Exodus 34.1-32).
- Then among second generation Hebrews in Deuteronomy 27.1-8 and again in Deuteronomy 29-30 in Moab (with allusions in Rom. 11.8; Heb. 12.15; Mt. 24.31; Rom. 2.29; 10.6-8) and then in the Promised Land at Mt. Ebal (Jos. 8.30-35) which was itself a fulfillment of Dt. 11.29-30 and Dt. 27.1-26. Then at Shechem, again, in Joshua 24.1-28.
- Later, through the divided kingdom (2 Chron. 15.8-17; 17.7-9; 23.16-21; 31.1; 34.29-32), especially in Jerusalem with Josiah (2 Kings 23.1-3 // 2 Chron. 34.29-32), anticipated by Hosea at Jezreel (Hos. 1.10-11) and, later still, a multi-day covenant renewal under Ezra (Nehemiah 8-9).
- Anticipation of a new phase of the covenant, or refer to a renewal of the covenant, Jer. 31:33; 32:38-40; Ezek. 34:23-25, 30, 31; 36:25-28; 37:26, 27; 2 Cor. 6:16-18; Heb. 8:10.

Resources

Jonty Rhodes, *Reformed Worship*

4. Bureaucracy

Episcopacy: Church of England, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, some Lutheran, United Methodist Church.

Elders (presbyteros) and Bishops (*episkopos*) and Deacons (*diakonos*).

Authority: Bishop + Elder + Deacon
Every congregation submits to a bishop.

Independency: most Baptist, Brethren, Bible Church, Congregational, Pentecostal.

Elders and Deacons, often without terminology

Authority: Board + Pastor

Sometimes use “apostle” as office.

Congregation is self-governed.

Presbyterian: Presbyterian, Reformed, Free Church, some Baptist.

Elders/Bishops and Deacons (Titus 1:5; Phil. 1:1).

Authority: Elder + Deacon (1 Tim. 3:1-13).

Some Elders are “teaching Elders” (1 Tim. 5:17).

Every congregation submits to a presbytery (Acts 15:22-35).

Resources

Sean Michael Lucas, *On Being Presbyterian*, 132-148

Kevin DeYoung, [Putting in a good word for Presbyterianism](#)

C. The real question: What is a church?

1. Biblically: assembled ones, gathered ones, called-out ones.

2. The visible/invisible nature of the church

Church militant + church triumphant Church as institution + church as organism

Local church + universal church

Visible church + Invisible church

- In to Out: Demas deserted the church to join the world (2 Tim. 4:10; see Col. 4:14; Phm 24). Hymenaeus and Philetus “swerved from the truth” (2 Tim. 2:17). Paul called the Corinthians, “saints” (1 Cor. 1:2).
- Poser: Judas would have been better off never having been born (Mt. 26:24). Not all who are circumcised externally are circumcised spiritually (Rom. 2:28-29), and not all who are of Israel, are true Israel (Rom. 9:6-7). A lot of apologetics is directed to the church (Jude 3; 2 Cor. 10:3-5), and antichrists arise from within (1 Jn. 2:19).
- Out to In: Jesus says to the criminal on the cross next to him, “truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk. 23:43). A distraught Ethiopian eunuch belongs to God (Ac. 8:26-40).

The value of church membership.

3. The historic marks of the church

- The gospel is rightly taught
- The sacraments rightly administered:
- Church discipline rightly practiced

- All discipline is applying God's word to the Christian life for the purpose of godliness (1 Tim. 4.7). Discipline is one of the ways God shows His care for us (Rev. 3.19; Heb. 12.11).
- Christians discipline themselves (1 Cor. 9.27), and they discipline one another (Mt. 18.15-20, Gal. 6.1).
- The visible church must display biblical church discipline in order to protect the purity of the visible church, even if it means excluding some (Mt. 18.15-20, 1 Cor. 5.1-12, 1 Tim. 1.20).

Resources

Guy Prentiss Waters, *How Jesus Runs the Church*
 Stephen Smallman, *What Is a Reformed Church?*

4. *The (six, or more) means of grace in the life of the church*

Ordained channels of grace in the life of the church through which God ministers to the souls of Christians by His Holy Spirit. Word, Sacrament, and Prayer? Well, ...

- Submission to the Word: personal holiness, discipline, life and vocation
 Grow: [grow into] [display through]
- Fellowship: Family life, sharing gifts for the common good, and others
 Gather: [participate in] [invite others]
- Prayer: Adoration + confession + thanksgiving + supplication, ministry of shepherding, interceding for others
 Glorify: [biblical worship] [outpouring service]
- Acts of mercy and service to the world
 Glorify: [biblical worship] [outpouring service]
- Worship: Dependence on God, giving of tithes
 Glorify: [biblical worship] [outpouring service]
- Evangelism: Local, national, international
 Glorify: [biblical worship] [outpouring service]

Resources

Philip Graham Ryken, *City On a Hill: Reclaiming the Biblical Pattern for Church in the 21st Century*
 John Stott, *The Living Church: Convictions of a Lifelong Pastor*
 John Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord, 260ff*