

## 18. The Church

BC 27-29

### Description of the Church

#### **What is the church?**

The body and bride of Christ, consisting of all the elect

#### **Church universal & church institute**

Universal = All the elect

Institute = Gathering of believers & their seed w/installed elders & deacons.

#### **Church is one, holy, catholic & apostolic**

[One] One people of God gathered throughout history [HC 54; Eph. 2; Gal. 3]

[Holy] Separated from this world, consecrated to Christ

[Catholic] Universal, gathered out of all nations [HC 54; Eph. 2; Gal. 3]

[Apostolic] Holds to the truth taught by the apostles [Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:20]

#### **The oneness of the church is denied by those who teach that...**

Israel & the church are two separate peoples of God

Children of the flesh are not Israel [Rom. 9:6-8].

All Israel shall be saved [Rom. 11:26].

#### **How the one church is united**

In Christ [her Head], who is the Truth.

#### **Reformed creeds = Accurate summary of the apostles' doctrine**

To depart from our creeds = To depart from the apostles' doctrine

### Marks & Keys

#### **Marks of the true church**

Pure preaching of the Word

Proper administration of the sacraments

Proper exercising of Christian discipline

#### **Why is the preaching of the Truth is central**

Christ is the Truth. Wherever you find the Head, you'll find His body.

#### **Keys of the kingdom**

The preaching of the gospel & Christian discipline

#### **Why is our denomination called the Protestant Reformed Churches & not the Protestant Reformed Church?**

A denomination is not an instituted church but a group of instituted churches.