

The Office of the Keys vis a vis Congregational and Synodical Polity (Governance)

July 26, 2015

I. The Essence of the Church; Christ's Office of the Keys and his Institutions and It's New Creation

B. Salvation totally earned; Gift given through the Means of Grace.

1. Institution; command and promise; Violations: occasions for Confession; separation.

(From last week...)

Can we intentionally join a group that falsifies the marks of the church?? See Mt. 28.19f; Roman 16. 17-20. Why not? What sin is unforgivable? Why would joining them grieve the Holy Spirit?

So what are we as Christians directed by God's Word to do when we are tempted to join a church of another denomination (or in our context, a non-denominational church)?

What are we as a church and individuals to do in light of the falsification of the Marks? (Amos 5.15; 1 Peter 3.11; Mt. 7.18)

Where is this publicly expressed (See 1 Corinthians 11.23-26)? Is the act of taking the Lord's Supper a private or a public act? Would communing those of heterodox churches be good for them? For our confession? What is Evangelicalism?

Can you confess the truth without condemning the lie? (Dealing with weak vs. erring consciences)

Status of confession: The lie requires separation, condemnation and confession

B. 2. Rites and traditions; good or ill?

Status of confession in terms of adiaphora (things neither commanded nor forbidden):

Good things are kept insofar as they express Biblical principles/truth in the congregation's context.

1. Sunday worship in freedom (why do we do it; why change it?).
2. Ordination; confirmation (why do we do it; why change it?).
3. The form of confession of sins – individual vs. corporate.
4. Communion frequency (why do we do it; why change it?).
5. Use of liturgy/contemporary worship (why do we do it; why change it?).

6. Sign of the cross; candles in worship; kneeling for confession; reciting the creed.
7. Rejection of the common cup.
8. Rejection of receiving the bread with the hand; of using red communion wine.