

C. The Collective Church (Acts 9:31; Acts 15):

II. Why does the Church exist?

Session 1 – Small group discussion questions

Open in prayer, asking God for understanding and renewed hearts through the study.

A. HEAD

1. Why does Office Bearer training matter?
2. What is the Church?
3. Is the local church less important than the universal church?
4. What might it look like to see the “collective church” functioning today?
5. Do you agree with the idea that worship is the chief purpose of the church?
6. What is the relationship between worship and evangelism?

B. HEART

How does what you have learned in this session make you feel? Comforted? Troubled? Perplexed? Indifferent? Motivated? Why?

C. HANDS

1. What are some ways that you think you may benefit from this training course?
2. How do you expect this course to change your life?
3. How can you aspire or encourage others to aspire to serve in church office?
4. How might a course like this equip an average church member to serve God?
5. What implications does the church’s purpose have for the lives of Christians?
6. What are some ways that we can contribute toward the fulfillment of the church’s purpose?

D. PRAY

- *Praise God*
- *Give thanks for...*
- *Pray that...*
- *That the LORD would help us apply what we have learned*
- *That the LORD would help us in this church to be grow into the same character as that exemplified in Christ.*
- *That the LORD would provide office bearers for our church*

Session 1 reading & listening:

Confessions:

Belgic Confession - Article 27

<https://crca.org.au/about-the-crca/beliefs/137-beliefs-doctrinal-standards/the-belgic-confession/672-articles-27-32-the-church>

Westminster Confession of Faith – Chapter 25

<https://crca.org.au/about-the-crca/beliefs/139-beliefs-doctrinal-standards/westminster-confession/716-chapter-25-of-the-church>

Listening:

“The Doctrine of the Church (I): The Origin, Catholicity, Visibility & Invisibility” – Rev Carl Robbins.

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=51611141070>

“The Doctrine of the Church (II): The Unity, Purity & Invincibility of the Church” – Rev Carl Robbins

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=516111411320>

“The Purpose of the Church” – Dr Joseph A. Pipa Jr.

<https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=220181543591>

Reading:

James Bannerman “The Church of Christ” Vol 1 – p.1-61¹

<https://www.monergism.com/church-christ-ebook>

INTRODUCTION

Ch. I. The Church as defined in Scripture

Ch. II. The Church a Divine and Spiritual Institution

Ch. III. The Church as Visible and Invisible

Ch. IV. The Church as Catholic and Local

¹ You’ve got a whole month before Session 2 – just read 2 pages per day between now and then! Bannerman is the classic reformed text on the church, so it will be well worth the discipline of reading.