**Implication #3: The Church Gathers for Edification**

“What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.” – 1 Cor. 14:26

**Conclusion**

*Course Outline:*

*Week 1 -- What is a Church?*

*Week 2 -- The Keys: Church Membership*

*Week 3 -- The Keys: Church Discipline*

*Week 4 -- Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper*

*Week 5 -- Church Governance: Congregationalism and Elders*

*Week 6 -- The Church Gathered*

***Questions? Contact Zach at*** [***Zach.Schlegel@capbap.org***](mailto:Zach.Schlegel@capbap.org) ***or Jamie at*** [***Jamie.Dunlop@capbap.org***](mailto:Jamie.Dunlop@capbap.org)***.***



**CORE Seminars – Theology of the Church**

**Capitol Hill Baptist Church**

***Week 6: The Church Gathered***

**I. Introduction**

* *What is the purpose of our weekly gatherings?*

**II. The Purpose of the Church**

Guarding the “what” and “who” of the gospel.

* Matthew 16, 18

Secondary implications of this purpose statement:

* The Great Commandment
* The Great Commission

The New Testament calls churches to gather regularly

**Implication #1: Our Gatherings Are Designed by God**

We need church gatherings as God has designed them.

The “regulative” principle (vs. the “normative” principle).

What does God call us to do in church?

* Pray (Col. 4:2-4, 1 Tim. 2:1-2)
* Read Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13, Col. 4:15)
* Listen to Preaching (Acts 2:42, 1 Tim. 4:13)
* Baptize (Matt. 28:19)
* Lord’s Supper (1 Cor. 11)
* Sing (Eph. 5:19, Heb 13:15)
* Give (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

Three reasons to limit our services to these elements

1. We don’t have warrant to bind a Christian’s conscience where Scripture doesn’t. (Hebrews 10:25)
2. God requires that we approach him in his way
3. The Holy Spirit had good reasons for designing our gatherings as he did.

A few areas of application

* Use this in evaluating a new church home
* Use this to evaluate our own church’s services
* Make sure that you make use of *all* of what the Holy Spirit has given you

**Implication #2: God Has Special Purposes for Our Corporate Worship**

Some thoughts on worship in general:

Worship is “engaging with God on the terms that he purposes and in the way that he alone makes possible.” – David Peterson

Three characteristics of worship

* It is response to God himself
* It encompasses our entire lives (Romans 12:1)
* It is delight in the beauty of God in Christ

What’s so special about corporate worship?

1. We hear a trustworthy message
2. We worship *together*
3. The ordinances