

WCF 25 - Of the Church

“There shall always be a church on the earth to worship God according to his will. This church is founded upon the Rock of Ages, it is inhabited by the Spirit of power and of grace, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

~Francis Beattie, *The Presbyterian Standards*, 350~

I. The Invisible Church (25.1)

A. Defined

1. Church

2. Catholic: universal

WLC Q. 64. What is the invisible church?

A. The invisible church is the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one under Christ the head.

B. Defended

II. The Visible Church (25.2)

A. Defined

WLC Q. 62. What is the visible church?

A. The visible church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

B. Defended

C. Necessity

III. The Gifts of the Church (25.3)

A. The Gifts Themselves

1. Gospel Ministry

2. Sacraments

3. Public Worship

B. The Purpose of the Gifts (all driven by, derived from, the Word)

1. Gathering the Saints

2. Perfecting the Saints

C. The Permanence of the Gifts

D. The Blessing of the Spirit

IV. The Purity of the Church (or lack thereof) (25.4-5)

A. The Varied Experience of the Church (4)

1. More Visible

2. Less Visible

B. The Marks of the Church (4)

1. Purity of Doctrine

2. Administration of Sacraments

3. Public Worship performed

C. The Witness of the Church (5)

1. Mixed at Best

2. Reality of Apostasy

V. The Head of the Church (25.6)

Historic Text	Revised Text (1936)
There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof. but is that Antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalts himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God	There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof.

A. The Headship of Christ

1. Aspects

2. Errors in Mind

a. Erastianism

b. Papacy

B. The Evils of the Papacy