

Things Most Surely Believed Among Us:
An Exposition of the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith
Chapter 26: Of the Church

I. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH (Paragraphs 1-4)

II. THE LOCAL CHURCH

A. THE ORIGIN OF THE LOCAL CHURCH (Paragraph 5)

B. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL CHURCH (Paragraph 6)

C. THE AUTHORITY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH (Paragraph 7)

7. To each of these churches thus gathered, according to his mind declared in his word, he hath given all that power and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in worship and discipline, which he hath instituted for them to observe; with commands and rules for the due and right exerting, and executing of that power.

1. The Source of this Authority

2. The Purpose of this Authority

3. The Sufficiency of this Authority

4. The Regulation of this Authority

5. The Recipients of this Authority

D. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

1. The Identity of Local Church Government (Paragraph 8)

8. A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members; and the officers appointed by Christ to be chosen and set apart by the church (so called and gathered), for the peculiar administration of ordinances, and execution of power or duty, which he intrusts them with, or calls them to, to be continued to the end of the world, are bishops or elders, and deacons.

A. THE EXISTENCE OF LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS

B. THE SELECTION OF LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS

C. THE PURPOSES OF LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS

D. THE IDENTITY OF LOCAL CHURCH OFFICERS

2. The Appointment of Local Church Government (Paragraph 9)

9. The way appointed by Christ for the calling of any person, fitted and gifted by the Holy Spirit, unto the office of bishop or elder in a church, is, that he be chosen thereunto by the common suffrage of the church itself; and solemnly set apart by fasting and prayer, with imposition of hands of the eldership of the church, if there be any before constituted therein; and of a deacon that he be chosen by the like suffrage, and set apart by prayer, and the like imposition of hands.

A. GIFTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

B. CHOSEN BY THE CHURCH

C. SET APART BY FASTING AND PRAYER

D. THE LAYING-ON OF HANDS OF THE ELDERSHIP