



26:15: The Counsel of Other Churches

Counsel needed and employed

Fellow churches give counsel, not mandates

- Context: 26:7, authority of the local church
- **2 Corinthians 1:24**

Recap of Chapter 26

1. We believe in the universal (catholic) church, consisting of all the elect across all time. This church is the bride of Christ and he cherishes it.
2. All local churches should be made up of saints with a true faith and a holy life.
3. Although there is no such thing as a perfect church, some churches destroy their profession and cease to be true churches. Yet Christ preserves his church to the very end.
4. Jesus is the sole head of his church (excluding leaders like the pope).
5. Jesus calls people to himself, to obey his word and live together in church communities.
6. In membership, we submit to the word of Christ, giving ourselves to God and one another (26:6). Membership in a local church is an obligation for Christians. (26:12)
7. God empowers local churches for the carrying out of worship and discipline. God designed his church to have biblically qualified officers, elders and deacons. A congregation plays an essential part in recognizing and appointing officers.
8. The pastor and congregation have God-given responsibilities to care for one another in the manner God has laid out in his Word.
9. Other men can and should preach besides elders/pastors.

10. In faith, we guard the unity of the church amid sin and conflict.

11. We desire edifying fellowship with other churches, as we are able.

12. We value the counsel of other churches and may have need of it in special circumstances.

Our great goal is to build a church according to God's will

Next Steps

1. Was there anything new and important you learned from the confession's description of the church? Why did that stand out to you?
2. What do you think makes Biblical churches particularly important in our community?
3. Where does the confession's description of the church challenge you the most? What would the Lord want you to do with that challenge?