

Sarah Richman, TH602NOS
Dr. Louis DeCaro
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Questions

1. What qualifies a church as evangelical?
2. What are the characteristics of the community that is the church?
3. What are the characteristics of the 'qahal' (the Hebrew translation used for church in LXX)?
4. Why is it practically impossible to believe in the gospel without belonging to the gospel community?
5. What is the danger of disregarding Israel's place in the history/life of the church?

Answers

1. *Those churches that have the gospel at the center of their proclamation and practice. It is a community created by the gospel that promotes and preaches the gospel and taht clutivates the gospel in its spirituality.*
2. *1) It will be a community of praise, 2) It will be a community of truth, 3) It will be a community that does not live for itself but is deeply involved with local concerns, 4) It will be a community where men and women are prepared for and sustained in the exercise of the priesthood in the world, 5) It will be a community of mutual responsibility rooted in a new order, 6) It will be a community of hope.*
3. *The assembling of Israel to hear the law, confess their sins, or renew the covenant.*
4. *Because to believe in the gospel is to believe in the Savior and to experience the multifaceted elements of salvation and identify with those who number themselves among the saved. God draws us into his triune life by drawing us into a community that praises the Father, imitates the Son and follows the Spirit.*
5. *Supersessionist theology and European anti-Semitism combined to contribute to the Holocaust. By treating the Jews as a mere parable of unbelief rather than as partners in a shared religous heritage robs the church of the unique gift of messianic Judiasm.*

Terms

Empirical: based on, concerned with, or verifiable by observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic.

Axiomatic: self-evident or unquestionable

Analogus: comparable in certain respects, typically in a way that makes clearer the nature of the things compared

Summary

In the first part of section 8, Bird covers the basics of ecclesiology, the study of the church. He emphasizes the necessity for an evangelical ecclesiology and how intrinsic the church is to the gospel message. Bird dives further into the images of the church that are shared between the Old and New Testaments as well as exploring those images that are unique to just the New Testament.