

### 5-3-1 Assignment on Bird 8.3 to 8.5

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#### QUESTIONS

1. What kind of community is the Church?
2. What are the marks of the authenticity of the Church?
3. What is the relationship between the Word and the sacrament, marks of the Church, according to the Reformers?
4. What are the three main models of ecclesiastical government?
5. What are the advantages of multisite churches?

#### Answers:

1. The Church is an eschatological, trinitarian, diaconal, fraternal, and holistic community. It is an eschatological community because it awaits the second coming of Jesus. It is trinitarian because it worships the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is also diaconal due to its call to serve the world. It is fraternal because there is vertical communion (with God) and horizontal communion (among brothers). A holistic community needs a constant and balanced diet of Spirit, Word, and sacrament.
2. The marks of the Church are its uniqueness, holiness, catholicity, and apostolicity. Thus, the Church is one because it shares one body, the body of Christ, the risen Lord. It is holy because it is called by God and sanctified by Christ through the Spirit. It is catholic due to the call to spread God's message throughout geographical and ethnic boundaries. The Church is apostolic because it upholds the apostles' teachings in Christ's command to the world.
3. Word and sacrament have an instantaneous evangelical unity. The Word announces the Gospel, while baptism and the Eucharist symbolize the Gospel. The Word brings the Gospel of grace, while the sacraments communicate grace by the energy of the Spirit. Together, Word and sacrament create a synergy of memorial and mediation. Word and sacrament are part of a single communicative action that introduces the Church to salvation.
4. Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Congregational are the three main models of church government. The Episcopalian form centers on the bishop as the primary overseer of faith, order, and ministry. The Presbyterian form centers on a plurality of elders who constitute a session as the head of a congregation. The congregationalist form centers on democratic rule. Thus, the congregation members elect their deacons, elders, and pastors.
5. The multisite church follows a pattern similar to that of the primitive churches. They are related, connected, and interdependent. They use the internet and good connectivity to reach several congregations. Also, they are an economically efficient way to grow a church by locating where people live. In addition, they can serve small congregations just with one pastor. It is a way to establish an independent, autonomous, contextual church.

#### TERMS

*Episcopalianism*: This form of church government centers on the bishop as the pivot of faith, order, and ministry.

*Diocese*: The basic unit of Episcopalianism. In this unit, a single bishop oversees several priests and parishes. A bishop may be subordinate to an archbishop in charge of a large diocese.

*Monoepiskopos*: When a single person (bishop) is selected from among the prebyteroi to manage the financial resources and the local churches' relief efforts.

#### SUMMARY

Bird defines the Church as a unique organization with a particular mission and identifies it as an eschatological, trinitarian, diaconal, fraternal, and holistic community. In addition, the marks of the authenticity of the Church are that it is one (one skin), holy (set apart for God),

catholic (present throughout the world), and apostolic (focused on preaching). Also, Bird addresses the three main models of governance that churches and denominations share today (Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational). Finally, he refers to the new trend of multisite churches that serve several congregations through the Internet and new technologies.