

5-3-1 Assignment: Bird, 8.3 - 8.5  
Due: April 5, 2023

QUESTIONS

1. What are the 6 communities that Bird hopes the church reflects?
2. How does koinonia relate to fellowship?
3. What is meant by the invisible church?
4. What are considered the “marks” of the church as told by the Nicene Creed?
5. What are the differences in the forms of governance that Bird references?

ANSWERS

1. The 6 communities that Bird explains are: eschatological, trinitarian, diaconal, fellowshiping, and holistic community.
2. The gospel brings people into a fellowship that Bird says goes beyond mutual interest and friendship, rather because of Christ we have koinonia which designates mutual interest, generosity, participation, sharing, and partnership.
3. According to Augustine, the invisible church encompasses believers past, present, and future. Augustine says this is “a company of the elect, known exclusively by God”. Barth sums it up by saying that the visible church and invisible church are not separate as one is earthly and one is spiritual, instead they are part of the one church.
4. Bird outlines the marks of the church being descriptors from the Nicene Creed as, one, holy, apostolic, and catholic. He concludes that the truest mark of the church is the gospel.
5. Bird described 3 forms of church governance models, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Congregationalist. Each of these has to do with rulership. The Episcopalian model is one main leader, the Presbyterian model focuses on a plurality of leadership, and the Congregationalist model is governed by the democratic rule of the congregation which elects deacons, elders, and pastors.

TERMS

- Eschatological: relating to death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and of humankind
- Eschaton: the final event in the divine plan; the end of the world
- *Paterfamilias*: male head of a family, clan, or tribe

SUMMARY

In this section, Bird begins by discussing what he calls the shape of the church and what communities he sees the church living out. He goes into depth about each of the communities: eschatological, trinitarian, diaconal, fellowshiping, and holistic. The next section has to do with marks of the church as described by the Nicene Creed, oneness, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The last part has to do with church governance and leadership structures in different churches. Bird ends with very practical purposes of the church: evangelism and mission, make disciples, administer the sacraments, kingdom work, and worship.