

Cong Zhou

Questions

1. Why is the church gathering called “fellowship?”
2. According to the author, why is the church “holistic?”
3. Why the “marks” of the church?
4. Conclude the benefits of the three main church models.
5. Conclude the criticisms of the three main church models.

Answers

1. Because “fellowship” is translated from the word “koinonia.” Koinonia emphasizes a state of “sharing life together.”
2. According to the author, Christ’s church need to have a balance with the Word, the Spirit and sacrament.
3. The “marks” of the church were paraphrased based on the Nicene Creed. It focuses on the unity and tradition of the church. The idea is used by the Roman Catholic church to resist the schism of churches after the Reformation. Protestant churches commonly believed the Word and the management of the sacraments are two marks of the churches.
4. Episcopalianism: it honors apostolic tradition and protects church unity and gospel integrity. Presbyterianism: it fits church governance in NT descriptions well. Congregationalism: it is free from outside interference.
5. Episcopalianism: it later gives church leaders too much power and the un-restraint power lacks biblical support. Presbyterianism: it makes unnecessary division among elders and it’s restrictive in some ways. Congregationalism: it lacks systematical supervision.

Terms

Episcopalianism. It comes from the word eposkopos. Episcopalian churches requires bishops to govern them. A bishop is thought to be the overseer of all priests and deacons. He is under the archbishops.

Presbyterianism. It comes from the word presbyteros. Presbyterian churches have presbyters to rule in the churches. They are also called “elders.”

Congregationalism. Congregational churches are ruled by democratic ruling body. The churches, by democratic votes, elect deacons, elders and pastors.

Summary

Church is the body of Christ on earth. She is a trinitarian, loving and holistic community that belongs to Christ, her bride. Christ’s church bears His marks to distinguishes herself from other things in the world. There are three main governing structures to rule churches: episcopal, presbyterian, and congregational.