

Podcast: Confessing The Faith

Episode 15: Why is Emmaus Seeking To Join An Association Of Churches?

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Published: 02/25/2016

Q1: What is the status of our joining an association?

Submitted a formal application to the SCARBC about a month ago
Delegates meeting on March 9. Our application will be considered then.

Q2: Where did this desire to join an association come from?

Due to our past experience

Q3: What do the scriptures have to say about this?

Jerusalem council (Acts 15)
Circular letters (Galatians 1:2, 22)
Paul's fundraising efforts for the struggling Jerusalem church
Opening of Revelation (Revelation 1:11)

Q4: How do associations differ from denominations?

The question is, where does authority reside?
There are so many different kinds of denominations, but usually authority resides within the denomination or presbytery.
Who owns the building? Who appoints (or removes) pastors, elders, and deacons? Who does church discipline? Who decides on doctrinal issues, or issues of practice?
Again, denominations or presbyteries differ greatly one from another, but the overarching principle is that the buck stops with them, and not with the local church.
Our view is that the buck stops with the local church, made up of elders, and deacons and members, with Christ as the head, and his word as the final authority.
"If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." (Matthew 18:17, ESV)
"When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 5:4-5, ESV)
This does not mean that local churches are to be purely independent though.
See London Baptist Confession 26.6-9,15

Q5: Why SCARBC?

Doctrine
They take the Association seriously
Brotherly love, humility

Q6: What do we hope to get out of the association?

Accountability
Encouragement
Partnership in missions and church planting

Q7: What do we hope to contribute?

The same
As we get to know the association we can hopefully identify needs and discern how to meet them.

Q8: What is the best way for the people of Emmaus to get to know the other churches?

Start by going to scarbc.org

Attend the worship gathering on March 13, 5:00, Trinity Reformed Baptist Church

I hope to interview the pastors of these churches in the future