

Colossians 1, 2; Lord's Day 21

I BELIEVE AN HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH

- I. What it is.
 - A. The church of Jesus Christ is an object of faith.
 - B. As an object of faith, the church is composed of only true believers from the beginning to the end of the world.
 1. The church is a living organism, sharing one life and each growing from that life.
 2. Jesus Christ is the Head of the church and the life of all the members (Gal. 2:20).
 3. The body is so intimate that the church is the “fullness of Christ” (Eph. 1:23).
- II. The church has four attributes.
 - A. Unity: there is one church which consists of all the elect.
 - B. Catholic: universal, through all of time, embracing the whole human race and all the families of the earth (Gen. 12:3; 17:5,6).
 - C. Holy: the church is not perfect nor evidenced so it can be seen, but it is holy because it is washed in Jesus’ blood.
 - D. Apostolic: the church is built on the foundation of the apostles’ teaching (Acts 2:42; Eph. 2:20).
- III. The church’s existence, nature, and calling are determined by his Head (not by the judgments of the members).
 - A. Christ works all things in the history of the world “to the church,” i.e., for the church (Eph. 1:22).
 - B. The church and every member must live in the conscious, total dependence on her Head.
 - C. And then we are to strive to do the will of our Head: seek constantly to praise Him.