

# The Office of the Keys vis a vis Congregational and Synodical Polity (Governance)

July 19, 2015

## I. The Essence of the Church; Christ's Office of the Keys and his Institutions and It's New Creation

**B. Salvation totally earned; Gift given through the Means of Grace.**

**1. Institution; command and promise; Violations: occasions for Confession; separation.**

The Essence of the Church is Grace being given to sinner. But how! How is it given to sinners? The Marks of the Church.

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: <sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

What's commanded and promised here? Why do we depend on the "all things"? Why are they called "Marks of the Church?" Why could the church not exist without them? Why can we depend that where these are present there are Christians (See also Isaiah 55. 9f)? Do the Marks create unity or unity in diversity? Explain....

What happens when the 'all things' are no longer taught?

A **sect** is a body of Christians that falsifies one or more doctrines of the Christian Church.

Catholicism: The Gospel is not enough to save; your works are also necessary for your salvation.

Protestantism: Baptism and the Lord's Supper do nothing but symbolize the Gospel and faith.

What has happened in Roman Catholicism & Protestantism to the marks of the church? Why is that dangerous? Can people be saved in such Churches? How?

Can we intentionally join a group that falsifies the marks of the church?? See Mt. 28.19f; Roman 16. 17-20. Why not? What sin is unforgivable? Why would joining them grieve the Holy Spirit?

So what are we as Christians directed by God's Word to do when we are tempted to join a church of another denomination (or in our context, a non-denominational church)?

What are we as a church and individuals to do in light of the falsification of the Marks?

Where is this publicly expressed (See 1 Corinthians 11.23-26)? Is the act of taking the Lord's Supper a private or a public act? Would communing those of heterodox churches be good for them? For our confession? What is Evangelicalism?