



MERIDIAN CHURCH

March 2019 Meridian Life Letter

by Josh King

Meridian Church,

The church's elder confession of faith, which is based on the Belgic Confession, gives this explanation of a true church:

We believe that we ought to discern diligently and very carefully from the Word of God what is the true church, for all sects which are in the world today claim for themselves the name of church. We are not speaking here of the hypocrites, who are mixed in a true church along with the good and yet are not part of the church, although they are outwardly in it. We are speaking of the body and the communion of a true church which must be distinguished from all sects that call themselves the church.

The true church is to be recognized by the following marks: It practices the true preaching of the gospel. It maintains the true administration of the sacraments as Christ instituted them. It exercises church discipline for correcting and punishing sins. In short, it governs itself according to the pure Word of God, rejecting all things contrary to it and regarding Jesus Christ as the only Head. Hereby a true church can certainly be known and no one has the right to separate from it.

Here we see what is essential to the church, that the ministry of the word and sacraments be in accord with the gospel. No gospel, no church. But the church should never be content to merely be as church, any more than a human could be content to merely be a human. We don't simply want to be a church, we want to be a *healthy* church.

We are not perfect by any means, but praise be to God that we are not merely a church, but one that is healthy, experiencing the growth that comes from abiding in our Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. May He continue to keep us and conform us more and more to His image for the renown of His name.

Summer Film Series

The summer film series will return for 2019 but this year will we meet at 6:30 on Friday evenings. Depending on the level of involvement, these might be hosted in homes. If you would be interested in hosting please let Josh know. The films and dates are as follows:

May 3rd: *American Gospel*
June 7th: *The Riot and the Dance*
July 5th: *Logic on Fire*

Preaching Forecast

Upon completion of our series through Galatians we will again study a handful of Psalms before beginning a venture through Jeremiah. As usual, a couple of recommended commentaries will be made available in the resource center.

Finances

At our family business meeting the elders will propose a couple of separate amendments to our 2019 budget. We need to replace old and worn vacuums. Therefore

The elders recommend that the 2019 Proposed Budget be amended, increasing the "Janitorial" line item by \$500 for a total of \$800.

Next, we want to change the name of the "Elder Apprentice Continuing Education" to "Elder Education" and increase it. This will allow us to use the funds for all *other* elder continuing education (the lead preaching pastor has a separate line item). David Burks recently was able to attend a preaching seminar led by Steve Lawson and paid for some expenses involved. This would reimburse him and provide for further opportunities.

The elders recommend that the budget line item "Elder Apprentice Continuing Education" be changed to "Elder Education."

The elders recommend that the 2019 Proposed Budget be amended, increasing the "Elder Education" line item by \$500 for a total of \$700.

On Behalf of the Elders,
Grace and Peace,

Josh