

The Doctrine of the Church

1. Its Head is X, 3:6. ^{12:23} epi with en of Moses in vs 5.
2. Church is essentially a fellowship of believers, 3:6. ^{10:24-25} Whose house we are. No article, therefore emphasis is on character of Xn society as a house. If article then emphasis would be on uniqueness of Xnty.
3. Members of the church have made open confession of X, 3:1; 4:14; 10:23. homologia and evidently means the confession made at baptism. See BFW note on 10:23 for proofs of that usage. Does seem to be just more than simple faith. ^{1m 6:12 Eph 5:26, 1 Pt 3:21} From this follows several things
 - a. Faith prerequisite to ch membership. 6:1. Repentance and faith 1st.
 - b. Baptism prerequisite. 6:1. Implied in word confession and also in fact that knowledge of this was one of rudiments which they were expected to know.
4. It is an ecclesia, 2:12; ^{12:23} ~~10:23~~. ^{But was 'ekklesia' is non-technical in 2:12. So don't use 2:12.} 2:12 speaking of time after resurrection which gives clue to fact that church built on res of X.
5. Its members are enrolled in heaven, 12:23. firstborn is plural and means we all belong to X who is firstborn one of God and we are enrolled in heaven. Figure is used of enrolling of citizens of a city on a registry with all the full privileges of citizenship.
6. We have a present ^{in actuality} sphere of guaranteed blessing which in a coming day will become our actual ^{Residence} location. This is meaning of heavenly Jerusalem, 12:22. Yet thruout all eternity the church of firstborn ones will be distinct from other groups in heaven.
7. The church is to have its regular Xn gatherings yet not a mere assembling but an actual assembly. 10:25. Don't leave the assembly (not assembling) of yourselves (heauton not humon which fixes attention on character of church as specifically Xn). There is a positive aspect to this too--the need of mutual support as the end approaches is emphasized too.
8. The church is to be ruled, 13:17. There are clearly rulers and ruled. ^{ruled} are to obey and submit. Obedience to a rule and submission to a wish. Submit not found elsewhere in Bible. Rulers are to watch (figure of the watchman of OT. In NT only in Mk 13:33; Lk 21:36; Eph 6:18 & here only). Souls means something more than self-consciousness but includes spiritual part of man too. BFW says the whole man. Reason for obedience is that rulers may rule with joy and not with grief.
9. Church is to remember those who have gone before, 13:7. Church was to hold sacred the memory of those who had ruled over them and who had now died. Prob death by martyrdom. Scripture everywhere holds up power of good example, cf 6:12; 1 Jn 2:6.