

## . The Doctrine of the Church

### A. The Nature of the Church

#### 1. The Church as the People of God

- a. "Ecclesia" is a Greek word which means "those who are called out".
- b. The Church is thus those who are called out of the world by God
- c. Those called out by God are judged by God, forgiven by God, and renewed by God.
- d. They are then sent out by God to the world bringing the Good News of God's judging, forgiving, and renewing grace.
- e. All Christians are the church
- f. The church is not a building it is a community.
- g. It is not a voluntary association of like-minded people but rather a people called and governed by God, charged with forwarding God's agenda.
- h. Infant baptism as a sign of this body of people called by God.

#### 2. The Church as the Body of Christ

- a. Christ is its Head
- b. We are members, related to him/one another

### B. The Marks of the Church

- 1 One
- 2 Holy
- 3 Catholic
- 4 Apostolic