



## WCF Prayer:

### Chapter 25- Of The Church

#### **Almighty God,**

You are Lord over all the earth and you are drawing to yourself a people from every corner of the globe. We praise you for your universal Church, that invisible company which is known only to you,

In this "invisible Church" you gather your elect from every nation and into one body under Jesus Christ, our Head. How wonderful it is that you call this Church, "the Bride of Christ" and "the Body" of him who fills all.

Lord, we acknowledge that there is also a "visible Church", your the kingdom. We recognise that this visible Church is not confined to one nation but exists wherever true religion is confessed throughout the world. We thank you that this Church includes both the faithful and their children. In your grace, you have made this Church the house of God outside of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.

We thank you for the gifts that you have bestowed upon the visible Church, the ministry of the Word and the sacraments. By your wisdom and power, through these, you gather and perfect your saints in this life and into the age to come. We rest in your promise that, by your presence and the power of your Spirit, this is assured.

Heavenly Father, we look back through history and see your universal Church sometimes visible and sometimes less so. We see a Church sometimes more pure and sometimes less so, as measured by the doctrine of the gospel taught and embraced, the administration of the sacraments and the way public worship more generally is conducted. Lord have mercy when your church is less visible and less pure and corrupts your worship.

Holy God, we confess with heavy hearts that even the purest churches in this age are subject to mixture and error. We grieve that some have so degenerated that they have ceased to be Churches of Christ at all. We confess this sadness before you, yet we rest in the assurance that you will never deprive yourself a people worshipping you according to your will.

Living God, we declare that there is no other Head of the Church than Jesus Christ. No person or office bearer in any denomination or congregation can claim that title for him or herself. We recognize that any who exalt themselves to such a position stand in opposition to you. Your judgment will be rightly administered and punishment exercised. We reject such pride and look only to you, Jesus Christ.

Lord, build Your Church. For your Name's sake,

**Amen.**