

The Doctrines of Ecclesiology and the Sacraments

Reformed Theological Seminary
Washington, D.C.

Revised

N.B. Before the first class meeting please read J.I. Packer, “Introduction: On Covenant Theology” in Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants* (on the course homepage).

6ST519 (2 Credits)
Spring 2018
February 6—April 16th 24th
7-9:30PM

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Office Hours: please make an appointment—I enjoy getting to know everyone I can.

Course description

This course explores biblical doctrine from a systematic perspective. Topics include ecclesiology and the sacraments.

Textbooks¹

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics, Volume 4: Holy Spirit, Church and New Creation* (HB 4); ISBN 978-0801026577

Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., *Perspectives on Pentecost*; ISBN 978-0875522692

Howard Griffith, *Spreading the Feast, Instruction and Meditations for Ministry at the Lord’s Table*; ISBN 978-1629951768

David F. Wright, ed., *Baptism, Three Views*; ISBN 978-0830838561

Other required reading (on the course homepage)

Calvin, John, *Short Treatise on the Holy Supper of Our Lord Jesus Christ*.

John M. Frame and Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., “Realignment—An Exchange of Views”

¹ A number of these titles are available as e-books. I recommend printed books for study (though I do not require that you purchase them). Bavinck and Gaffin are books you will almost certainly want to read and reread.

Vern S. Poythress, "The Church as A Family: Why Male Leadership in the Family Requires Male Leadership in the Church," available at http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_articles/1990TheChurch.htm

Geerhardus Vos, "The Ministry of John the Baptist," and "The Kingdom of God" in R. B. Gaffin, ed., *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos* (Philipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1980). (Still, the whole book is well worth owning!)

The Westminster Confession of Faith (this is available online many places). (WC)

Assignments

1. Class attendance is required.
2. Final Exam (50 %): Students will take a short essay exam that assesses their understanding and articulation of the course lectures, reading assignments, and relevant creeds and confessions. The exam is open book and open notes. I will post it on the course homepage. The exam is due uploaded to Canvas by 11:59PM on **April 28th, 2018**.
3. Reading report (25 %): Attached to the final exam, students will turn in a reading report that states the percentage of assigned readings that they have read with reasonable care by the due date of the final exam.
4. Class presentation (25%): There will be one or more debates in class. Each student will be assigned to one team. Teams will be graded together. Details will be forthcoming.

Reading Report	25%
Class presentation	25%
Final Exam	50%

N.B. a failing grade (below 70%) on any of the above will result in failure of the course (F's will not be averaged in). See the RTS grading scale in the *Catalog*, p. 51.

5. For M.Div. students: memorize and recite *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, questions and answers 88-97. On the final exam, students will state whether they have accomplished this.

Academic Policies

1. Late assignments: apart from exceptional circumstances, I will not accept late assignments for credit.
2. Plagiarism: plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will result in a failing grade for the course.

Reading Schedule

Date	Lecture	Reading Completed	Other views (NOT required)
February 6	1. Introduction	Packer, "On Covenant Theology"	
February 13	2. The Church in Redemptive History 2.1 OT Roots.	Bavinck, Chapters 5-6	
February 20	2.2 Christ, Kingdom and Church.	Vos, "The Ministry of John the Baptist" and "The Kingdom of God"	Gregg R. Allison, <i>Sojourners and Strangers, The Doctrine of the</i>

			<i>Church</i> , pp. 61-102.
February 27	2.3 Pauline Metaphors. 3. "Ecclesiologicals" and Issues.	Bavinck, Chapter 7; WC Chapters 20-23, 25-26; 30-31; "Realignment".	Allison, 205-248.
March 6	3.1 Gift and Office. 3.2 Spiritual gifts.	Gaffin, <i>Perspectives on Pentecost</i> .	
March 13	3.3 Ministry of Women.	Poythress, "The Church as Family"	
March 20 No class	Reading week		
March 27	4. The Sacraments. 4.1 Covenant and Sign.	Bavinck Chapter 8 and chapter 9 ; Griffith, <i>Spreading</i> , pp. 15-41 WC Chapters 7, 27.	
April 3	4.2 Baptism and infant baptism.	Bavinck Chapter 10; Wright, ed., <i>Baptism, Three Views</i> ; WC Chapter 28.	Allison, 321-64.
April 10	Roman Baptism Debate		
April 17		Catch up	
April 24	5. The Lord's Supper	Calvin, <i>Short Treatise</i> ; Griffith, <i>Spreading</i> , pp. 41-144; WC Chapter 29.	Allison, 365-412.

Supplemental Bibliography

1. The Doctrine of the Church

Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers, The Doctrine of the Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012).

Berkouwer, G. C. *The Church* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965).

Carson, D. A. "Matthew" in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, ed. F. Gabelein (Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1984).

Carson, D. A. *Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church: Understanding a Movement and Its Implications* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005).

Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives, Frederica Matthews-Green, ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2003).

Clowney, E.P. "A Brief for Church Governors," in ed. Mark Brown, *Order in the Offices: Essays Defining the Roles of Church Officers* (Duncansville: Classic Presbyterian Resources, 1993).

Clowney, E.P. "Biblical Metaphors for the Church" in ed. D. Carson, *Biblical Interpretation and the Church: The Problem of Contextualization* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1984).

Clowney, E. P. *Called to the Ministry* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1964).

Clowney, E. P. *The Church*, *Contours of Christian Theology*, ed. G. Bray (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1995).

- Clowney, E.P. "The Church" in ed. S. Ferguson, *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1988).
- Clowney, E. P. "The Politics of the Kingdom," *Westminster Theological Journal* 41:2 (1979): 291-310, available at http://www.marshillaudio.org/resources/pdf/Clowney_Politics.pdf.
- Clowney, E. P. "Presbyterian Worship," *Worship: Adoration and Action*, ed. D.A. Carson (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993), 110-122.
- Ferguson, Sinclair B. *The Holy Spirit, Contours in Christian Theology*, ed. Gerald Bray (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1997).
- Frame, John M. *Evangelical Reunion* (available at Frame-Poythress.org).
- France, Richard T. *The Gospel of Matthew*, New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. G. Fee (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007).
- Gaffin, Richard B. *Perspectives on Pentecost* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1979).
- Gaffin, Richard B. "The Kingdom of God" in ed. S. Ferguson, *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1988).
- Grudem, Wayne, ed. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Four Views* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999).
- Grudem, Wayne and John Piper, ed. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood, A Response to Evangelical Feminism* (Wheaton: Crossway, 1991).
- Hart, Daryl. *Recovering Mother Kirk: The Case for Liturgy in the Presbyterian Tradition*.
- Irons, Lee. "Prophecy and Tongues: A Compilation of the Best Cessationist Arguments," at http://www.upper-register.com/other_studies/prophecy_tongues.html
- Johnson, Dennis. *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1995).
- Keller, Timothy J. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012).
- Kuyper, Abraham. *Lectures on Calvinism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1932).
- Lewis, C. S. "Membership" in *The Weight of Glory and Other Essays*.
- Macleod, Donald. "Church Government" in ed. S. Ferguson, *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1988).
- McNeill, John T. "The Church in Sixteenth Century Reformed Theology," in ed. D.

- McKim, *Major Themes of Reformed Theology* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992).
- Old, Hughes O. *Worship That Is Reformed According to Scripture*, Revised Edition (2002).
- Orthodox Presbyterian Church, "Report of the Committee on Women in Office, 1988" available at http://www.opc.org/GA/women_in_office.html
- Poythress, Vern. "The Church as Family: Why Male Leadership in the Family Requires Male Leadership in the Church" in ed. Grudem and Piper, *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, above.
- Ridderbos, Herman. *The Coming of the Kingdom* (Philadelphia: P&R, 1962).
- Ridderbos, Herman. *Paul, An Outline of His Theology*, trans. John R. deWitt, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975).
- Tidball, Derek. "Church" in ed. D. Alexander, *The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 2000).
- Vos, Geerhardus. *The Kingdom of God and the Church* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1972).
- Wallace, Ronald S. *Calvin's Doctrine of the Christian Life*.
- Wilson, Douglas. *Mother Kirk: Essays and Forays in Practical Ecclesiology* (Moscow: Canon, 2001).

2. The Sacraments in General

- Battles, Ford L. *The Piety of John Calvin* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1978).
- Berkouwer, G.C. *The Sacraments*, Studies in Dogmatics (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1969).
- Packer, J.I. "Introduction: On Covenant Theology" in Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants*.
- Robertson, O. Palmer. *The Christ of the Covenants* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1978).
- Wallace, Ronald. *Calvin's Doctrine of the Word and Sacraments*

3. Baptism

- Beasley-Murray, G. R. *Baptism in the New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988).
- Dunn, J. D. G. *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* (London, 1970).
- Gaffin, R. B. "The Baptism of Jesus" in ed. S. Ferguson, *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1988).

Kline, Meredith G. *By Oath Consigned: A Reinterpretation of the Covenant Signs of Circumcision and Baptism* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968).

Marcel, Pierre Ch. *Baptism, Sacrament of the Covenant of Grace* (London: James Clarke, 1953).

O'Brien, Peter T. *Colossians and Philemon*, Word Biblical Commentary (Waco: Word, 1982).

Old, Hughes O. *The Shaping of the Reformed Baptismal Rite in the Sixteenth Century* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992).

Poythress, Vern S. "Indifferentism and Rigorism in the Church: With Implications for Baptizing Small Children," *Westminster Theological Journal* 59 (1997), 13-29 available at http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_articles/1997Indifferentism.htm

Poythress, Vern S. "Linking Small Children With Infants in the Theology of Baptizing," *Westminster Theological Journal* 59 (1997), 143-58 available at http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_articles/1997Linking.htm

Ward, Rowland S. *Baptism in Scripture and History* (privately published, 1991). Available from the author at 358 Mountain Highway, Wantirna, Victoria 3152, Australia.

Waltke, Bruce. *Genesis, A New Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).

Waltke, Bruce. "Circumcision" in ed. Robert Banks, *The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1997).

Wright, David F., ed. *Baptism: Three Views* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Academic, 2009). With essays by Bruce A. Ware (credo), Sinclair B. Ferguson (paedo), and Anthony N. S. Lane (dual practice) in counterpoint, this is the best debate over infant baptism in the covenantal discussion.

4. The Lord's Supper

Calvin, John, *Short Treatise on the Holy Supper of Our Lord Jesus Christ*. This is available many places. If possible, read it in the Library of Christian Classics edition, entitled *Calvin: Theological Treatises*, ed. J. K. S. Reid. It can also be found on the web.

Davis, Thomas J. *This is My Body: The Presence of Christ in Reformation Thought* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008).

Geldenhuys, Norval. "The Day and Date of the Crucifixion," *Commentary on the Gospel of Luke*, New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1951) 649-70.

Gerrish, Brian. *Grace and Gratitude: The Eucharistic Theology of John Calvin* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1993).

Letham, Robert. *The Lord's Supper: Eternal Word in Broken Bread* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 2000).

Griffith, Howard. *Spreading the Feast, Instruction and Meditations for Ministry at the Lord's Table* (Phillipsburg: P&R Publications, 2015).

Macleod, Donald. "Calvin Into Hyppolytus?" in Bryant Spinks and Iain Torrance, ed., *To Glorify God, Essays on Modern Reformed Liturgy* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1999).

Mathison, Keith. *Given for You: Reclaiming Calvin's Doctrine of the Lord's Supper* (Phillipsburg: P & R Publishing, 2002).

Old, Hughes O. *Holy Communion in the Peity of the Reformed Church*. Ed., Jon D. Payne (Powder Springs, Georgia: Tolle Lege, 2014).

Thiselton, Anthony. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001).

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 6ST519, The Doctrines of the Church and Sacraments

Professor: Howard Griffith

Campus: Washington DC

Date: Spring 2018

MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes		Rubric	Mini-Justification
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Oral presentation, paper, exams.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and	Moderate	Scripture memory. Systematic and biblical-theological consideration of doctrines, both in reading and in lectures.

	cultural/global perspectives.)		
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Readings of <i>WCF</i> and the finest of Reformed theology.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	The church and its worship is the very purpose of the gospel.
Desire for World view	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Emphasis on the biblical doctrine of church and sacraments.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	Though there is much controversy connected to these subjects, I try to be winsome as I commend the Reformed doctrines of the church and sacraments. The debate assignment requires a fair presentation of opposing viewpoints.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Content oriented, not practice oriented.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Stresses the importance of the means of grace.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	Stresses the work of the church in edification.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Creates a love for the people of God in every denomination. Gives some attention to the unique calling of the church in relation to public issues.