

**ST IV (2ST524)**  
**Ecclesiology and Sacraments**

January 18-22, 2010  
Mon to Fri, 8:30am to 3:30pm

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**Course description**

This course is an introduction to the doctrines of the church and the sacraments. We will explore the centrality of the church in the work of Christ and examine the nature, structure, leadership and marks of the church, leading to a discussion of the sacraments of the church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Topics include the following: high and low views of the church, Simon Peter and the foundation of the church, the significance of Pentecost, Paul's metaphors for the church, church officers, marks of the church, baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

**Texts**

J. Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book IV  
E.P. Clowney, *The Church*  
J. Murray, *Christian Baptism*  
Alexander Schmemmann, *For the Life of the World*  
Cyprian, *On the Unity of the Catholic Church* (electronic)  
Paul Zahl, "Bible-based Verticality" (electronic)

**Other helpful texts on Church and Sacraments (but not required)**

L. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, pp. 555-658  
I.H. Marshall, *Last Supper, Lord's Supper*  
R.B. Kuiper, *The Glorious Body of Christ*  
G. Vos, *The Kingdom of God and the Church*

**Evaluation**

30% Exam—based on lectures and readings  
10% Calvin reading assignments  
10% Clowney reading report  
10% Murray reading report  
10% Schmemmann reading report  
30% Paper—Please write a 1,500 word paper on any topic related to the course.

## Course Schedule

### Monday

- I. Introduction: Overview of the Doctrine of the Church
- II. The Building of the Church
  - A. The foundation of the church in the promise of Christ, Matt.16:18
  - B. The Church Jesus builds
  - C. Church and Kingdom
  - D. The "Peter Saying"
  - E. The Pattern of Church building
    - i. Mk.1:13-14 prototype
    - ii. The significance of Pentecost
    - iii. The pattern in Acts

### Tuesday

- III. The Nature of the Church
  - A. Church as fulfillment of covenant community
  - B. Church as the assembly of Christ
  - C. Central designations and images of the Church

### Wednesday

- IV. Leadership and Organization
  - A. Organization in Gospels
  - B. Organization in Acts
  - C. Eldership
  - D. Diaconate
  - E. Ministry of Women in early church
- V. Attributes of the Church and Marks of the Church

### Thursday

- VI. Sacraments
  - A. Introduction and definition
  - B. Number of sacraments
  - C. Sign and Seal
  - D. Covenant
- VII. Baptism
  - A. Significance
  - B. Mode of baptism
  - C. Subjects of baptism

### Friday

- VIII. Lord's Supper
  - A. Institution
  - B. Function
  - C. Meaning
    - i. Memorial
    - ii. Blessing
    - iii. Communion
    - iv. Proclamation
    - v. Anticipation
  - D. The Presence of Christ

## Calvin Assignments

Please just write a few sentences for each questions.

### Calvin, *Institutes*, Book IV

Why are there external aids? Why a Church? What is the Church? What is the standard by which true worship is measured? What does the Church do? How is discipline administered? For what purpose did God institute discipline? How does Calvin define a sacrament? What sacraments does Calvin admit? What does Baptism achieve? What happens in the Lord's Supper? Can you figure out what the Catholic position on the Lord's Supper is that he is rejecting? Why does he reject it? Why was the Supper instituted? What good does it do? How do the words of consecration work for Calvin?

### Calvin, *Institutes*, pp. 1276-1359 (Book IV, Chapter XIV-XVI)

1. According to Calvin, why is the Word important in the sacrament? Give detail.
2. How can the word "sacrament" be variously used?
3. What does Calvin think of rebaptisms? Why?
4. What do you make of Calvin's "seed (of repentance and faith)" in the infants of believers

### Calvin, *Institutes*, pp. 1359-1484 (Book IV, Chapters XVII-XIX)

1. List the terms in which Calvin describes our communion with Christ in the Sacred Supper. Be expansive and give details.
2. Why is Calvin so upset about the Roman Mass?
3. What Roman sacraments does Calvin deny and why?
4. What does Calvin think of Roman orders and why?

## Reading Report

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did you read the entire book?
2. Summarize in one paragraph the thesis and argument of the text.
3. Summarize in one paragraph the author's method of proving her or his thesis. How does she or he "get there"?
4. For you, what are some of the main points of the book?
5. What were some key points or passages that you think are relevant for a course on the church and sacraments?
5. Internal positive assessment: Assuming the author's point of view and being aware of what the author hoped and intended to do, write at least two paragraphs about some strengths of the text. To what extent did the author "pull it off" and accomplish a significant part of what she or he intended?
6. Internal negative assessment: Assuming the author's point of view and being aware of what the author hoped and intended to do, write at least two paragraphs about some weaknesses of the text. How many of your reservations about the text can be expressed from a point of view intrinsic to the text or assuming the author's point of view?
7. External positive evaluation: From your perspective and evaluating things in terms of your own commitments and purposes, what are some strengths of the text? Please write at least two paragraphs.
8. External negative evaluation: From your perspective and evaluating things in terms of your own commitments and purposes, what are some weaknesses of the text? Please write at least two paragraphs.

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: ST IV: Ecclesiology and Sacraments  
 Professor: Justin Holcomb  
 Campus: Orlando  
 Date: January 18 – 22, 2010

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<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"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	strong	4 reading reports and 1 paper
<b>Scripture</b>	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 cultural/global perspectives.)	strong	Lectures are a blend of systematic theology and scriptural expositions
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	We go through the WCF on church and sacrament, as well as read Calvin and Clowney
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	Devotions related to lecture each day
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	Focusing on church in Christian and reformed worldview
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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	Reading an Orthodox author on church and dealing lots with Catholicism and non-denominational/bible church views.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	For MDiv students I encourage them to use their papers for teaching
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	We discuss the implications for ecclesiology on worship
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	Minimal	Generally related to theme of course
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	I also teach Church and the World, so many of the themes of how culture relates to ecclesiology are intertwined.