

## ST 524– Ecclesiology and Sacraments

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*Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando*  
*Fall 2010*

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will study the doctrines of the Church and the Sacraments. We will seek to understand, appreciate, and apply these doctrines as they are revealed in Holy Scripture and summarized in the Reformed confessions to the end that God might be glorified “in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations” (Ephesians 3:21). This course meets Thursdays, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, August 25 - December 06. (2 hours.)

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Volume 4 (Baker, 2008). ISBN 13: 9780801026577

Douglas Estes, *SimChurch: Being the Church in the Virtual World* (Zondervan, 2009). ISBN 13: 9780310287841

Gregg Strawbridge, ed. *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism* (Presbyterian & Reformed, 2003). ISBN 13: 9780875525549

Cornelis P. Venema, *Children at the Lord’s Table: Assessing the Case for Paedocommunion* (Reformed Heritage Books, 2009). ISBN 13: 9781601780591

In addition to the aforementioned books, students will be required to read essays (posted on the Self-Service website) by the following authors: Richard B. Gaffin Jr., C. Samuel Storms, and Stephen J. Wellum.

### ASSIGNMENTS

***1. Reading report (20 % of final grade):*** Attached to the final exam, students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read over the course of the semester.

**2. Exams (60 % of final grade):** Students will take two exams over the course of the semester. Exams will test students' comprehension and ability to communicate doctrinal topics covered in class lectures, readings, and the Reformed confessions.

**3. Book review (20 % of final grade):** Students will write a book review of Douglas Estes, *SimChurch: Being the Church in the Virtual World*. The review should: (1) be 6-8 double spaced pages in length; (2) be written according to the format prescribed in Jacques Barzun, *The Modern Researcher*, 5th edition (available from the professor); (3) provide a critique that is both charitable (reflecting a sympathetic and accurate understanding of the book's contents) and discerning (offering a critical analysis of the book's contents on the basis of Reformed ecclesiological principles discussed in course lectures and readings); and (4) be written in clear, readable English (use a proofreader). An "A" book review will fulfill all four objectives with excellence. ***Book reviews are due in hard copy format to Ceci Helm by December 8, 2010 at 11:00 am.***

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

I will provide a schedule of assignments on the first day of class.

## **OFFICE HOURS**

My office hours are Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. If this time is not convenient for you, please email me (sswain@rts.edu) and I will be happy to schedule a meeting with you at a different time.