

Systematic Theology 4: The  
Doctrine of the Church and

(6ST524/01)

McLean Presbyterian Church  
Fall 2007  
Monday 7:30-10 PM (9/10 – 11/26; no class on 11/19)

Dr. Howard Griffith  
Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology  
[hgriffith@rts.edu](mailto:hgriffith@rts.edu)  
703.408.3157

*Office Hours:* make an appointment – I will be delighted to meet with you.

*Course Goal:* to grasp something of the centrality of Church and Sacraments in Christian theology and life, and grow in service to the Church, Christ's body and fullness.

*Lecture Outline*

1. Introduction to Ecclesiology and Sacraments in historical-theological study.
2. The Church in Redemptive History.
  1. Old Testament Roots.
  2. Christ, the Kingdom and the Church.
  3. Pentecost and the Church.
  4. Pauline metaphors for the Church.
3. Issues in The Doctrine of the Church.
  1. Gifts of the Spirit.
  2. Ministry and Discipline.
  3. Ministry of Women.
  4. The Church and Suffering.
  5. Attributes, Marks and Aspects of the Church.
4. Introduction to the Sacraments.
  1. Covenant and Sign.
5. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
  1. Baptism in the New Testament.
  2. Infant Baptism.
  3. The Lord's Supper, the Reformation debate and the New Testament.

*Assignments:*

**Read:**

1. Geerhardus Vos, *The Kingdom of God and the Church* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1972), all. (This is also published under the title *The Teaching of Jesus Concerning the Kingdom of God and the Church*.)
2. Richard B. Gaffin, *Perspectives On Pentecost* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1979), 5-122.
3. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1995), 8-290.
4. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, trans. F. L. Battles (ed. J. T. McNeill, *The Library of Christian Classics*, 20; Philadelphia: Westminster Press) Volume 2:1001-1276 and 1485-1519. This is Book 4, Chapters 1-13, and 20.
5. Edmund P. Clowney, "The Politics of the Kingdom," *Westminster Theological Journal* 41:2 (1979): 291-310, available at [http://www.marshillaudio.org/resources/pdf/Clowney\\_Politics.pdf](http://www.marshillaudio.org/resources/pdf/Clowney_Politics.pdf).
6. Richard B. Gaffin, "Theonomy and Eschatology: Reflections on Postmillennialism," from *Theonomy, A Reformed Critique* (ed. William S. Barker and W. Robert Godfrey, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990), 197-224, available at <http://newhope2.timberlakepublishing.com/files/Gaffin%20Theonomy%20and%20Eschatology.pdf>.
7. Edmund P. Clowney, "The Final Temple" *Westminster Theological Journal* 35 (1973): 156-189, available at <http://www.beginningwithmoses.org/articles/finaltemple.htm>
8. *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapters 20-23, 25-26, 30-31.
9. Vern S. Poythress, "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](http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_articles/1997Indifferentism.htm)
10. Vern S. Poythress, "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](http://www.frame-poythress.org/poythress_articles/1997Linking.htm)
11. John Murray, *The Covenant of Grace: A Biblico-Theological Study*, Biblical and Theological Studies (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1987), also available at [http://www.the-highway.com/Covenant\\_Murray.html](http://www.the-highway.com/Covenant_Murray.html), all.
12. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Volume 2:1276-1484. This is Book 4, chapters 14-17.
13. John Murray, *Christian Baptism* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1992), 1-93.
14. *The Mystery of the Lord's Supper, Sermons by Robert Bruce*, ed. and trans. Thomas F. Torrance (Edinburgh: Rutherford House, 2005), all.

15. *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapters 27-29.

**Memorize** (any translation; and recite a friend): Ephesians 4:4-6.

**Exams:**

1. There is a take-home mid-term due in class October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The midterm will cover readings 1-8 and class lectures to that point. **Late papers and exams are not accepted.**
2. The final exam will be take-home, limited to three hours. It will be cumulative. Include with the Final Exam a statement that you have memorized the Scripture passage above, and list and sign what percentage of the required reading you completed. Failure to complete the reading will have a negative impact on the course grade. The final exam is due postmarked by **December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

Both mid-term and final exam are closed-book and closed-notes – you may use *only* an unmarked Bible.

All exams and papers should be hard copy. The paper and final should be mailed to RTS, 1028 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia 22101.<sup>1</sup>

**Paper:**

A response paper of 6-7 pages on the topic of student presentations. The presentations will be on **November 12<sup>th</sup>** (“God’s revelation defines Christian worship as it does Christian doctrine” – pro and con). The response paper is due postmarked by **December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

The goal of the response paper is for the student to interact critically with the primary source material. The student **must** consider carefully and fairly **both** sides of a debated issue before coming to a conclusion. The response paper must include footnotes and a brief bibliography.

There will be two student presentations. To encourage volunteers for the student presentations, presenters will not be required to take the final exam. The grade for the mid-term will be substituted for the final, and a *generous* grade will be given for the presentation.

Student presenters will be responsible for the following:

- To give a 20-25 minute presentation with discussion to follow.
- One week before the presentation, to identify and send the class bibliographical references for 100-150 pages of discussion of the topic of his or her presentation.
- On the day of the presentation, to distribute a complete typed copy of the presentation to the class, either a full research paper or an annotated outline.

---

<sup>1</sup> Any form of cheating will automatically result in failure of the course. Students may **not** consult exams or class notes from previous years.

- To provide a complete copy of all materials to the Professor one week before the presentation.
- To meet with the Professor one week before the presentation to discuss it. It is the presenter's responsibility to make arrangements with the Professor in advance.

**Evaluation:**

Mid-term 30%  
 Final exam 50%  
 Paper 20%

**Grading Scale:**

The standard RTS grading scale (found on page 38 of the catalog) will be used.

A	(97-100)	4.00
A-	(94-96)	3.66
B+	(91-93)	3.33
B	(88-90)	3.00
B-	(86-87)	2.66
C+	(83-85)	2.33
C	(80-82)	2.00
C-	(78-79)	1.66
D+	(75-77)	1.33
D	(72-74)	1.00
D-	(70-71)	.66
F	(below 70)	0.00

**Policy on Late Papers and Exams:**

Simply put, late papers and exams are **not** accepted based on the following rationale:

a. The issue is not so much an inconvenience to the professor. If that were the primary issue, then he would grade late papers because it is fundamental to his Christian commitment to put the interests of others before his own.

b. The issue concerns the apparent laxity with which extensions are often granted. This is not Christian education. Wisdom is living within boundaries. The cosmos exists because the Creator provided boundaries for air, water, land. Moreover, he provided temporal boundaries for seasons. Without boundaries, the cosmos would degenerate back into anarchy. It is the essence of Christian living that we live within boundaries. Liberals want no boundaries. They want freedom without form, liberty without law, lovemaking without marriage. This is a fundamental battle. It is distressing when Christians do not show respect for boundaries and when students do not respect temporal boundaries.

c. Wisdom also entails knowing the goal and devising a strategy to achieve it. Students must be aware from the syllabus what is required of them and should be able to strategize a successful model to achieve it. Laxity and uncertainty with regard to deadlines actually confuse the students and militate against a good Christian education. Paradoxically, "grace" sounds Christian and pastoral and "law" sounds non-Christian; but, sometimes

so-called “grace” and “pastoral concerns” encourage libertarianism and in truth is non-Christian and non-pastoral. Consciously or unconsciously students realize that there is a fudge factor here, enabling them to rationalize their not turning in work on time.

d. The issue also pertains to spiritual life, a subject on which a seminary rightly prides itself. However, the spiritual life includes self-control, discipline, etc. Students reap good fruit from hard work.”<sup>2</sup>

### *Supplemental Bibliography*

#### 1. The Doctrine of the Church

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” in ed. S. Ferguson, *New Dictionary of Theology* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1988).

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).

France, Richard T. *Matthew*, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries, ed. L. Morris (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1985).

Gaffin, Richard B. *Perspectives on Pentecost* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1979).

---

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Professor Bruce K. Waltke.

- 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](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).
- 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](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).

Bavinck, Herman. "Herman Bavinck on the Covenant of Works," trans. R. B. Gaffin in ed. H. Griffith and J. R. Meuther, *Creator, Redeemer, Consummator* (Greenville: Reformed Theological Seminary, 2000).

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. *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).

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).

#### 4. The Lord's Supper

Geldenhuis, 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).

Leithart, Peter J. "The Way Things Really Ought to Be" *Westminster Theological Journal* 59 (1997) 159-76.

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

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).

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

Witherington, Ben. *Conflict and Community in Corinth, A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1995).