

ST 4, The Doctrines of the Church and Sacraments



Reformed Theological Seminary
Washington, D.C.

6ST524 (2 Credits)¹

McLean Presbyterian Church

Fall 2009

September 25-26, October 9-10, October 30-31

Friday 7:30-10, Saturday 9-4

Dr. Howard Griffith

Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology

hgriffith@rts.edu

703-408-3157

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

Soiree: Jackie and I would like to invite you and spouses/dates (sorry, no children) to dinner at our home on Saturday, November 7th at 5 p.m. Dress is casual. Please come and enjoy food and friends. Our address is 13939 Malcolm Jameson Way, Centreville, Virginia 20120.

Course Goals

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.

Texts

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Volume 4 (HB 4). (If you have trouble ordering this or other books from Amazon, try the Westminster Seminary bookstore at www.wtsbooks.com).

¹ Taking the systematic theology courses in sequence, despite statements to the contrary, though not required, will increase your ability in theology. However, first-time students may like to look at S. Grenz, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*, and J. van Genderen and W.H. Veema, *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*. They are not assigned, but "ConRefDog" is quite compatible with Bavinck.

John Calvin, *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.

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.

Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., *Perspectives on Pentecost* (Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1979), 5-122.

Packer, J.I. "Introduction: On Covenant Theology" in Herman Witsius, *The Economy of the Covenants* (on iqweb).

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

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

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

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*. Look for it at a bargain price on bookfinder.com.)

The Westminster Confession of Faith (WC)

Assignments:

1. Class attendance is required. I will not call the roll, but students who are often absent or late without excuse will be penalized.
2. You are asked to complete all reading assignments by the dates indicated below. Completed reading will be worth 10% of your final grade. I will ask about it on the final exam.

Weekend Assignments

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture Topics</i>	<i>Required Reading</i>
September 25-26	1. Introduction to	Gaffin, <i>Perspectives</i> , all.

	<p>Ecclesiology and Sacraments in historical-theological study.</p> <p>2. The Church in Redemptive History.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old Testament Roots. 2. Christ, the Kingdom and the Church. 3. Pentecost and the Church. 4. Pauline metaphors for the Church. <p>3. Issues in The Doctrine of the Church.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gifts of the Spirit. 2. Ministry and Discipline. 	<p>Vos, <i>Kingdom and Church</i>, all. HB 4, Chapters 5-7. WC Chapters 20-23.</p>
October 9-10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ministry of Women. 4. The Church and Suffering. 5. Attributes, Marks and Aspects of the Church. <p>4. Introduction to the Sacraments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Means of Grace. 2. Covenant and Sign. 	<p>Poythress, "The Church as Family;" Clowney, "The Politics of the Kingdom"; WC Chapters 25-26, 30-31. Packer, "Introduction: On Covenant Theology." HB 4, Chapters 8-9. Poythress, "Indifferentism and Rigorism" and "Linking Small Children."</p>
October 30-31 Class presentations.	<p>5. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baptism in the New Testament. 2. Infant Baptism. 	<p>HB 4, Chapters 10-11. Calvin, <i>Short Treatise on the Holy Supper</i>.</p>

	3. The Lord's Supper, the Reformation debate and the New Testament.	
--	---	--

3. Final Exam, on the reading and lectures. This 3-hour exam will be on iqweb. It is due in hard copy (no electronic exams) in the RTS office on November 30th. The exam will be worth 30% of your final grade.

4. Class presentation: On October 31st two sides will debate the question "Is Roman Catholic baptism valid Christian baptism?" (Study materials will be provided.) One side will take the affirmative, the other the negative. You need not hold the position you defend, but seek to present a compelling case. (Groups will be graded together.) This will be worth 30% of your final grade.

5. Research paper: In 7-10 pages (double spaced, 12 point font) discuss a topic in the area of the sacraments. The paper is due at the RTS office on December 7th. I do not accept late papers. The paper must have a thesis statement, and appropriate biblical and theological argument of your thesis. You must use at least eight good sources including the Westminster Standards and relevant assigned readings. See appendix below for other *required* term paper standards. The paper is worth 30% of your final grade.

6. Memorize and recite (any translation) Ephesians 4:4-6. I will ask about this on the Final Exam.

Grading Scale: the standard RTS grading scale (*Catalogue*, p. 45).

Approximate Time Investment

Lectures	25 hours
Reading	46 hours
Term paper	25 hours
Memorization	3 hours
Final exam (3 hours, plus preparation)	20 hours
Total	120 hours

Appendix

Policy on Late Assignments

Simply put, late exams and papers are **not** accepted based on the following rationale:²

- 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.”

Term Paper Standards

I expect you to use standard paper conventions found in Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. There is a quick version at http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html. Failure to follow these conventions will reduce your grade. Please include a title page with your name, but **omit headers or footers that include your name**. The paper is due in hard copy in class November 16th. You may collect your graded paper at the RTS office.

Grading System for Papers:

A: Good grasp of basic issues, plus something extraordinary, worthy of publication in a technical or a popular publication. That special excellence may be of various kinds: formulation, illustration, comprehensiveness, subtlety/nuance, creativity, argument, insight, correlations with other issues, historical perspective, philosophical sophistication, and research beyond the requirements of the assignment. One of these will be enough!

² Adapted from Professor Bruce K. Waltke.

A-: An A paper, except that it requires some minor improvement before an editor should finally accept it for publication.

B+: Good grasp of basic issues but without the special excellences noted above. A few minor glitches.

B: The average grade for graduate study. Good grasp of basic issues, but can be significantly improved.

B-: Shows an understanding of the issues, but marred by significant errors, unclarity (conceptual or linguistic), unpersuasive arguments, and/or shallow thinking.

C+: Raises suspicions that largely these terms and concepts are used appropriately. Does show serious study and preparation.

C: Uses ideas with some accuracy, but without mastery or insight; thus the paper is often confused.

C-: The student has a relatively poor, but barely competent, understanding of the subject.

D: I don't give D's on papers.

F: Failure to complete the assignment satisfactorily. Such performance would disqualify a candidate for ministry if it were part of a presbytery exam.

Most of my students get B's. I try to keep A's and C's to a relatively small number. F's are rare.³

Supplemental Bibliography

1. The Doctrine of the Church

³ Abbreviations for Comments on Papers: A – awkward; Amb – ambiguous; Arg - more argument needed; C – compress; Circle (drawn around some text)- usually refers to misspelling or other obvious mistake; D – define; E - expand, elaborate, explain; EA - emphasis argument; F - too figurative for context; G - grammatical error; Ill – illegible; Illus - illustrate, give example; Int – interesting; M - misleading in context; O - overstated, overgeneralized; PS- problem in paragraph structure; R – redundant; Ref- reference (of pronoun, etc.); Rel- irrelevant, or relevance unclear; Rep – repetitious; Resp - not responsive (In a dialogue: one party raises a good question to which the other does not respond.); S - summary needed; Scr - needs more scripture support; Simp – oversimplified; SM - straw man (a view nobody holds); SS - problem in sentence structure; St - style inappropriate; T - transition needed; U – unclear; V – vague; W - questionable word-choice; Wk - weak writing (too many passives, King James English, etc.); WO - word order; WV - whose view? yours? another author?

- 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. "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).
- 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. *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

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

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).

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).