



INDIANAPOLIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BT 604

The Church (ST IV)

Fall 2017

Friday, December 15, 7–10pm
& Saturday, December 16, 9am–5pm
Castleview Church
8601 Hague Road, 46256
1 credit

Professor Information

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Course Information

ST 604 The Church

Intensive and thorough instruction on Ecclesiology. Together with ST 601, ST 602 and ST 603, all the major theological loci will be covered in depth. 1 credit.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Understand ecclesiological developments of the English Reformation and their lasting influence.
2. Discover and interpret biblical theological connections between the old covenant and new covenant communities.
3. Engage and appraise diverse sacramental traditions flowing from the Reformation.
4. Critically review one contemporary work on ecclesiology.

Course Outcomes

Within the ITS Learning Outcomes, this course contributes to shaping students' aptitude in:

Hermeneutics & Biblical Theology

proficient at reading and interpreting biblical Hebrew and Greek, appreciating the rhetorical functions of the biblical books in their original social contexts, comprehending the contours of redemptive history within a covenantal framework, and possessing a very high biblical literacy and trenchant understanding of the gospel.

Historical & Systematic Theology

conversant with the historic theological loci as well as their biblical bases and historical developments, and possessing a coherent and cogent Reformed worldview.

Ministerial Leadership

able to powerfully articulate the gospel and a desire to spread the glory of God both in conversation and preaching, skilled at clear written and oral communication, understanding the central role of the local church in missions and evangelism, effective at personal discipleship and counseling, committed to the sufficiency of scripture, and proficient at leading others within organizational governance structures.

Teaching Method

This course is premised on the conviction that the Bible is the inspired word of God and contains everything necessary for life and salvation. In part, that means it contains a consistent, cogent and practical worldview that, when believed and obeyed, is able to conform sinners into the image of Christ who are then equipped to lead the church, engage subversive cultural trends, and confront the vanity of unbelief. Thus, close-reading of the texts of scripture, careful theological organization, and deliberate reflection on the church and contemporary life are essential.

The bulk of class time will be spent studying the scriptures and reviewing historical trends, primarily in a seminar format. As a Master's level course, students are also responsible for their own learning through reading, research and writing. Punctual attendance and undistracted focus are expected at every class meeting. Classroom technologies are to be used only in ways that contribute to the learning process. Bring your Bible to every class.

Course Readings:

Required:

Horton, Michael. *The Christian Faith: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrim's on the Way*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.

Keller, Timothy. *Loving the City: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in your City*. Center Church Series. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. [Note: This is part 2 in Keller's larger work *Center Church*. Students may read that instead.]

Murray, Iain H., ed. *The Reformation of the Church: A Collection of Reformed and Puritan Documents on Church Issues*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1965 (repr. 1987, 1997).

Course Assignments

Reading Questions:

Students are to read the following chapters from Murray ed. *The Reformation of the Church* in their entirety, including the brief introductions to each. Approx. 123 pages.

- Introduction
- Section I: The Nature of the Church
- Section II: The Rule of Reformation—The Word of God
 - Ch. 1: Luther, “Liberation from Human Authority”
 - Ch. 2: Cunningham, “The Reformers and the Regulative Principle”
 - Ch. 3: Hooper, “The Regulative Principle and Things Indifferent”
- Section III: The Need of Reformation
 - Ch. 1: Wilcox, “The Necessity for Reformation”
- Section IV: New Testament Church Government
 - Ch. 1: “The Book of Discipline (1587)”
 - Ch. 3: Westminster Divines, “The Form of Presbyterian Church Gov. (1645)”
 - Ch. 5: “The Savoy Platform (1658)”
 - Ch. 6: Burroughs, “The Difference between Independency and Presbytery”
 - Ch. 7: “A Presbyterian View of the Difference with Independency”
- Section V: The Unity of the Church
 - Ch. 3: Owen, “Union among Protestants”

Before the first night of class, students will be given questions regarding these chapter which are to be completed before the first night of class, **Dec 15th**, and prepared to discuss on **Dec 16th**. Each question will require no more than 1 typed paragraph. 25% of the final grade. [Objectives 1, 3]

Attendance & Participation:

Seminar format requires that students come to class prepared, and actively participate in the discussion and discovery. Students will be graded on how well they engage the class and contribute to fruitful development of the dialogue. Students should think of their comments in the following terms *that stay on topic*:

- a *reason* for agreement
- a *reason* for disagreement
- a *related* point of application
- a question

25% of the final grade. [Objectives 2, 3]

Paper:

Students will write a 4-page summary & review of Keller’s *Loving the City* (or part 2 of *Center Church*). This paper is to be typed in proper Turabian style. It is due on **January 5th**.

50% of final grade [Objective 4]

Course Schedule

Date:	Topic:	2° Reading:	Assignment:
PREWORK	The History of the Church	Murray	Reading Questions due Dec 15 th .
Dec 15 pm	Biblical Theology of the Church - Old and New Covenant People - the Universal Church	Horton 22, 25	
Dec 16 am	Systematic Theology of the Church - discuss Murray ed. - the marks of a local church - the Regulative Principle	Horton 23	
Dec 16 pm	Sacraments of the Church - Baptism - the Lord's Supper - discipline - a Baptist & Presbyterian disc. on polity	Horton 24	
POSTWORK	The Life of the Church	Keller Horton 26	Summary & review due Jan 5 th .

Grading Scale

Letter	Percent	Points	C	74–76	2.00
A	96–100	4.00	C-	71–73	1.67
A-	92–95	3.67	D+	69–70	1.33
B+	88–91	3.33	D	67–68	1.00
B	84–87	3.00	D-	65–66	0.66
B-	80–83	2.67	F	< 65	0.00
C+	77–79	2.33	I	Incomplete	0.00

Course Policies

Attendance in class is absolutely critical for learning the necessary material. Students are, therefore, expected to attend every class session, including colloquia. ITS understands, however, that unexpected and unavoidable emergencies do occur in the course of study. Two absences in one course will not result in a lower grade. Three or four absences, however, will result in lowering the student's grade by one letter. Five absences will result in an automatic F.

Incompletes can be granted at the professor's discretion based on the likelihood that the student can complete the necessary coursework with no more than one month of extra time, and given that the student is currently passing the course at the time of the request. The regular attendance policy still applies. Students are, therefore, encouraged to withdraw if more than four classes will need to be missed.

Plagiarism and cheating will be grounds for an immediate F in any given course. A second occurrence will result in expulsion from the school.

Recommended Further Reading

- Akin, Daniel L., ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Rev. ed. Nashville: B & H, 2007.
- Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Beale, G. K. *The Temple and the Church's Mission: A Biblical Theology of the Dwelling Place of God*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2004
- Bray, Gerald. *The Church: A Theological and Historical Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: A Discussion of Christian Fellowship*. New York: Harper & Row, 1954.
- Carson, D. A., ed. *Worship by the Book*. Zondervan, 2002.
- Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church*. Contours of Christian Theology. InterVarsity, 1995.
- Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. 3rd ed. Crossway, 2013.
- _____. *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*. 9Marks. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2012.
- Dever, Mark, and Paul Alexander. *The Deliberate Church: Building Your Ministry on the Gospel*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005.
- DeYoung, Kevin, and Greg Gilbert. *What Is the Mission of the Church?: Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.
- Green, Christopher. *The Message of the Church*. The Bible Speaks Today: Bible Themes. Downers Gove: IVP Academic, 2014.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2002.
- Hauerwas, Stanley and William H. Willimon. *Resident Aliens*. Expanded 25th Anniversary Edition. Nashville: Abingdon, 2014.
- Horton, Michael S. *People and Place: A Covenant Ecclesiology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008.
- Leeman, Jonathan. *Political Church: The Local Assembly as Embassy of Christ's Rule*. Studies in Christian Doctrine and Scripture. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2016.
- Marshall, Colin and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything*. Matthias Media, 2009.
- Merkle, Benjamin L. *40 Questions about Elders and Deacons*. 40 Questions. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2008.
- Miner, Paul S. *Images of the Church in the New Testament*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2004.
- Prusak, Bernard P. *The Church Unfinished: Ecclesiology through the Centuries*. Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist, 1989.
- Stiles, J. Mack. *Evangelism: How the Whole Church Speaks of Jesus*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Stone, Bryan P. *A Reader in Ecclesiology*. Ashgate Contemporary Ecclesiology. Farnham, U.K.: Ashgate, 2012; New York: Routledge, 2016.
- Webster, John. "On Evangelical Ecclesiology." Pages 153–194 in *Confessing God: Essays in Christian Dogmatics II*. London/New York: T & T Clark, 2005.
- Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*. Biblical Theology for Life. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.