The riches of Christ are our life. Of the Lord’s Supper, Calvin wrote, “All, like hungry men, should flock to such a bounteous repast.” Yet, too often, division in the Church weakens the ministry of Christ’s ordinances. Returning to Reformation theology, through lecture and student presentations, we will study both the administration and the delight of the Sacraments. The professor’s tradition is Presbyterian, but students will be free to develop projects within their own tradition.

Class Meetings

January 23-27, 2017
Monday to Thursday, 9AM-5PM
Friday, 9AM-12PM

Required Reading


Howard Griffith, Spreading the Feast, Instruction and Meditations for Ministry at the Lord’s Table; ISBN: 978-1629951768


Scott R. Swain, “Lutheran and Reformed Sacramental Theology: Seventeenth—Nineteenth Centuries” in Boersma and Levering, eds. The Oxford Handbook of Sacramental Theology (on the course homepage).

Cornelis P. Venema, Children at The Lord’s Table? ISBN: 978-1629951768


Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapters 27-29
Plus, another 1000 pages from the following:


Gregg Allison, *Roman Catholic Theology and Practice, an Evangelical Assessment*

Gregg Allison, *Sojourners and Strangers, the Doctrine of the Church*

John M. Barkley, *Worship of the Reformed Church*

Herman Bavinck, *The Sacrifice of Praise*


*G.C. Berkouwer, The Sacraments*

*Robert Bruce, The Mystery of the Lord’s Supper*

*John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book 4, Chapters 14-17.*

*John Calvin, Short Treatise on the Holy Supper of Our Lord Jesus Christ* (on the course homepage).

William Cunningham, *Historical Theology*, 2 Volumes.

William Cunningham, *The Reformers and the Theology of the Reformation*


Brian Gerrish, *Grace and Gratitude, The Eucharistic Theology of John Calvin*


Howard Griffith, “Halfway Covenant” (on the course homepage).


*Martin Luther, The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*

Pierre Marcel, *Baptism, Sacrament of the Covenant of Grace*

*Hughes Old, Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church*

Louis B. Schenck, *The Presbyterian Doctrine of Children in the Covenant*

Herman Selderhuis, ed., *The Calvin Handbook*

*Chad B. VanDixhoorn, *Confessing the Faith, a Reader’s Guide to the Westminster Confession of Faith*

*Ulrich Zwingli, On the Implementation of the Lord’s Supper*, ed. and trans., Jim West (on the course homepage)


* noteworthy

**Class Schedule**

Lunch each day from noon to 1PM.

Monday
  Morning: Baptism as a covenant sign, seal of union with Christ, subjects, etc.
  2:30-5PM: Student presentations

Tuesday
  Morning: The administration of baptism and ministry in worship
  2:30-5PM: Student presentations

Wednesday
  Morning: The Lord’s Supper: nourishment at God’s Table
  2:30-5PM: Student presentations

Thursday
  Morning: The administration of the Supper
  2:30-5PM: Student presentations

Friday
  Morning: Wrap up

**Assignments**

1. Students will complete 2,000 pages of assigned reading and submit a reading report to the professor (20% of final grade). Attach this to the final paper.
2. Students will make two class presentations, one on baptism, the other on the Supper. Each presentation will be 15-20 minutes long, with extra time for questions and discussion. The subject may be doctrinal or practical, its goal the up-building of your congregation. It may be a series of lessons on the sacraments, or a proposal of some sort of practical ministry in your church (e.g., regarding the circumstances of the administration of the sacrament in worship, or the “sacramental culture” of the church, like hearing professions of faith, visiting in homes, etc.) Please include a bibliography (40% of final grade).

3. Students will submit a final paper, which builds on one class presentation (20-30 pages). This may be academic research (following the usual conventions in Turabian, including a bibliography; cf. Scott Swain’s “Research Paper Guidelines” on the course homepage). In any event, it should have strong doctrinal content and be designed to enhance the worship of Jesus Christ (40% of final grade). The paper is due April 30, 2017. Please email it to jsisler@rts.edu.

Course Objectives Related to DMin* Student Learning Outcomes
Course: Sacraments and the Christian Life
Professor: Howard Griffith
Campus: Orlando
Date: January 23-27, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMin* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biblical/Theological Foundations:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Discussion of dogmatic texts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of biblical and theological foundations for pastoral ministry. (This includes interaction with Biblical texts, as well as awareness of Reformed Theology.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Historical/Contemporary Practices:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Discussion of historic and modern practices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant knowledge of historical and contemporary practices of pastoral ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Integration:</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Projects hone the practical skills of students.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to reflect upon and integrate theology and practice, as well as implementation in a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctuary (Symbol)</td>
<td>Contemporary pastoral setting.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification:</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids in the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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