For various reasons the doctrines of the Church and the Gospel Sacraments have often been relegated to an incidental place in evangelical theology. Often their positive importance has been diminished. Yet both in Scripture and in the history of the people of God the role of the church and the signs of the gospel have been central elements in Christian faith and thought. Against the background of biblical teaching, we will briefly explore what that significance is.

In our study of the **Doctrine of the Church** we will focus attention on certain aspects of the biblical material which forms the groundwork of the doctrine, with a view to understanding how the perspectives on the church given to us in redemptive historical revelation impact both our theology and praxis in the area of ecclesiology. In relation to the **Sacraments** our goal is to gain both a clear biblical-theological understanding of their significance and also a sense of their importance in the life of both the individual believer and the gospel community. To complement the class work reading in the appended texts should be completed.

**Course Requirements**

In addition to the instruction given in the lectures, a number of works on the church are listed as core reading, in addition to the variety of other works listed and materials that may be mentioned in class. The course will be graded on the basis of:

(i) **Paper:** A research paper, no more than 15 pages should be submitted by the agreed date (to be decided). This may be on any topic related to the syllabus. It should show evidence of thoughtful and relevant choice of topic, clear understanding of the biblical and theological issues involved, careful research and an ability to analyze and critique as well as trace the lines of a positive biblical doctrine in the specific area of ecclesiology chosen for research. Due on February 16, 2019.

(ii) **Examination:** An examination on the lecture material will be held on the last day of class.

**Reading**

The following works should be regarded as core reading. These particular works all reflect a reformed doctrine of the church. Bavinck represents an older but always vibrant exposition of Christian doctrine. Berkouwer a series of discussions which, in the European fashion, assumes knowledge of the basic materials. Calvin lies behind these authors, of course, and presents us with a remarkable exposition. Clowney represents a more contemporary biblical theological approach, R.B. Kuiper (note both the spelling and the identity—not to be confused with Abraham Kuyper!) was Westminster Seminary’s first Professor of Practical Theology and his popular book will in a variety of ways serve both as an introduction and will be provocative of further personal reflection. The reading list on sacraments includes two classic studies (Calvin and Bruce), as well as the standard texts of Bavinck and Berkouwer and in addition studies of a more deeply rooted exegetical nature.

**Doctrine of the Church:**

G.C. Berkouwer: *The Church*
J. Calvin: *Institutes*, Book IV, chapters 1-13
E.P. Clowney: *The Church*
R.B. Kuiper: *The Glorious Body of Christ*
In addition, the following works are particularly recommended for study:
D. Bannerman: *The Scripture Doctrine of the Church*
J. Bannerman: *The Church of Christ*
G. Vos: *The Kingdom of God and the Church*

The following works may be consulted for perspectives on the church.
R.J. Banks: *Paul's Idea of Community*
D.A. Carson (ed): *The Church in the Bible and the World*
J.N.D. Kelly: *Early Christian Doctrines*
H. Kung: *The Church*
G. McGregor: *Corpus Christi*
J. Moltmann: *The Church in the Power of the Spirit*
E.S. Morgan: *Visible Saints*
J. Owen: *True Nature of a Gospel Church* (Works, 16: 2-208)

**Sacraments:**
G.C. Berkouwer: *The Sacraments*, 90-187;
John Calvin: *Institutes* Book IV, chapters 14-19
J. Murray: *Christian Baptism*;
*Collected Writings* 2, 366-384.
R. Bruce: *The Mystery of the Lord's Supper*

---

**Ecclesiology and Sacraments—Lecture Outline**

**Introduction:**
The doctrine of the church today:
  i. Historical
  ii. Theological

I. **THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH**

1. The foundation of the church in the promise of Christ, Matt.16:18
   i. Programmatic words
   ii. Controverted statement
   iii. Point to church's centrality
       (a) Son of Man imagery
       (b) Community goal
       (c) Community language
       (d) Community rites
       (e) parabolic teaching

2. **The Church Jesus builds**
   i. The meaning of *ekklesia*

3. **Church and Kingdom**
   i. Central message of Jesus
   ii. Relationship of kingdom and church
       (a) Sphere in which kingdom is manifested
       (b) Instrument of kingdom
4. The "Peter Saying"
   i. In Christian interpretation
   ii. In R.C. argument
   iii. Response
   iv. The "keys"

5. The Pattern of Church building
   i. Mk.1:13-14 prototype
   ii. The significance of Pentecost
       (a) Promise→Fulfillment
       (b) New covenant life in the Spirit
       (c) Transcending of Mosaic economy
       (d) Typical gives way to antitypical
       (e) Mediation of many→mediation of One
       (f) Dawning of "last days"
   iii. The pattern in Acts
       (a) Christ displays kingdom power
       (b) Christ defends and comforts his people
       (c) Christ directs his people in the great mission
   iv. The effects in:
       (a) Growth
       (b) Government
       (c) Marks

II. THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH
1. Church as fulfillment of covenant community
   i. Saints
   ii. Elect and beloved
   iii. Called
   iv. Flock

2. Church as the assembly of Christ
   i. By Christ the assembly is opened
   ii. By Spirit the assembly is internationally convened
   iii. In assembly Christ is present
   iv. In return assembly is consummated

3. Church manifested in multi-dimensional way
   i. Universal ekklesia
   ii. Local ekklesia

4. Central designations of the Church
   i. Bride of Christ
      (a) Love and provision
      (b) Eschatological destiny
   ii. Temple building
      (a) Pillar and ground of truth
(b) Temple built in Christ
(c) Climaxes pattern of revelation
(d) Involves transformation in constitution
(e) Exhibits attributes of God
(f) The Upbuilding of the Church

Extensive-Missionary
- Prayer
- Practical assistance
- Life-style
- Mission activity
- Intensive-inbuilding
- In stability
- To maturity

iii. The People/Family of God
(a) In O.T.
(b) In N.T.

- Chosen and blessed community
- Trans-ethnic community
- Holy community
- Military community
- Pilgrim community
- Alien community

iv. The body of Christ
(a) Pauline metaphor
(b) Source of idea?
(c) Kephale as head

- Practical implications of ownership
- Kingdom principles pertain
- Gifts received

Union with Christ as foundational to church

III. LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION and MINISTRY in the CHURCH

1. Organization in Gospels
2. Organization in Acts
   i. The apostles
   ii. The seven
   iii. The elders
3. Eldership
   i. Ministry
      (a) Guardianship
      (b) Nourishment
   ii. Qualifications
      (a) Personal qualities
      (b) Spiritual gifts
4. Diaconate
   i. The seven in Acts 6?
   ii. Qualifications
   iii. Deaconesses?
   iv. Role of Widows
5. The standing "offices" in the church

6. Inter-relatedness of church
   i. Indications of connexionalism in NT
   ii. Development of hierarchy in later church life
   iii. Reformation restoration

IV. ATTRIBUTES AND MARKS OF THE CHURCH
 Attributes
  1. Unity
     i. NT emphasis
     ii. Nature of unity
     iii. Divisions in church

  2. Catholicity
     i. Meaning of term
     ii. In NT

  3. Sanctity
     i. Redemptive-historical/eschatological character
     ii. In R.C. teaching

  4. Apostolicity
     i. Interpreted historically
     ii. Doctrinal

Marks
  1. Reformation understanding

V. THE SACRAMENTS
  1. Terminology in history of the church
  2. Foundations for a Definition
  3. The number of sacraments
  4. Signs and Seals
  5. Validity
  6. Efficacy and necessity
VI. BAPTISM
1. The warrant for baptism
2. Significance
3. Mode
4. Subjects
5. Role

VII. THE LORD'S SUPPER
1. Institution
2. Significance
3. Meaning
4. The presence of Christ
5. Benefits
6. Participation
7. Conclusion
### Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Ecclesiology and Sacraments  
**Professor:** Sinclair B Ferguson  
**Campus:** Atlanta  
**Date:** January 9-12 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Moderate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate to Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Moderate to Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimal/Moderate</strong></td>
<td>Doctrine lies at the root of how we react in every sphere; but course touches only lightly on relations to broader church per se.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>