

ST519 – Systematic Theology: Ecclesiology & Sacraments

Reformed Theological Seminary
Houston, Winter 2019
Dr. Mark McDowell

Friday (6:30-9:30pm) – Saturday (8am-5pm), January 26th-27th
Friday (6:30-9:30pm) – Saturday (8am-5pm), February 8th-9th

I. Details

Instructor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell

Contact: mmcdowell@rts.edu

Office Hours: Feel free to contact me regarding anything in class and beyond. If you would like to make an appointment, please email.

II. Course Description (2 credits)

- a. This course will examine the biblical material that constitutes the foundational elements of doctrine of the church and the sacraments. We will explore these doctrines with a view to their practical and pastoral purchase in the area of ecclesiology.

III. Course Requirements

- a. Students are expected to write a 3 page perspective paper on the doctrine of baptism. The aim is to understand the theological and pastoral significance of this doctrine as well as finding a way to articulate it clearly and cogently, marshalling resources effectively, and presenting the argument across biblical and theological lines.
- b. Students must complete all required reading by the last day of class. As a theological student, good reading and the virtues that attend reading well are essential to pastoral ministry and the Christian life. Learning key texts and the ability to engage them charitably and fairly is an exercise central to good theology.
- c. Each student will write a research paper, no longer than 15 pages, on a topic that will be addressed in class and from the reading.
- d. A final exam will be given.

IV. Grading

- a. Reading – 10%
- b. Final Exam – 20%

- c. Perspectives Paper – 20%
- d. Research Paper — 50%

V. Reading

a. Required

- i. Gerald Bray, *The Church: A Theological and Historical Account* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2016)
- ii. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book IV, chapters 1-19, edited by John T. McNeill, translated by Ford Lewis Battles (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1960)
- iii. Edmund P. Clowney, *The Church* (Downers Grove: IVP, 1995)
- iv. Todd Billings, *Remembrance, Communion, and Hope: Rediscovering the Gospel at the Lord's Table* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018)
- v. Gregg Strawbridge, ed., *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism* (P&R, 2003)
- vi. David F. Wright, ed. *Baptism: Three Views* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2009)

b. Recommend

- i. James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2015)
- ii. Robert Bruce. *The Mystery of the Lord's Supper*, translated and edited by T.F. Torrance (Virginia: John Knox Press, 1958)
- iii. Alasdair I. C. Heron, *Table and Tradition* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1983)
- iv. George Hunsinger, *The Eucharist and Ecumenism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008)
- v. John Murray, *Collected Writings of John Murray*, vol. 2 (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2009), pp. 366-84
- vi. Robert Sherman, *Covenant, Community, and the Spirit: A Trinitarian Theology of the Church* (Baker Academic, 2015).

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes
With Mini-Justification**

Course: Ecclesiology & Sacraments
 Professor: Dr. Mark I. McDowell
 Campus: Houston
 Date: Winter 2019

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Reading, perspective paper, exam and research paper
Scripture	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.)	Strong	This course emphasizes the organization, structure and scope of Scripture and the theological implications from Scripture for ministry
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Central to this course
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Study of Scripture and the Reformed Tradition issues in the godliness required
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Emphasizes the holistic horizon of Scripture for all of life
Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic	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.)	Strong	Careful interaction and engagement with other views of church and sacraments

Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Gives a foundation for interpretation, exegesis and cultivates theological instincts for preaching
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	Sound understanding of biblical and theological loci encourages and promotes faithful worship
Shepherd	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.	Moderate	The forming of servant leaders and shepherd pastors is the core of the class, as well as the grasping of doctrine of church and sacraments
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Understanding the identity of Reformed theology and other theological positions