

## ST 520 – Ecclesiology and Sacraments

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*Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando  
Fall 2013*

### Course description

In this course we will study the doctrines of the Church and the Sacraments. We will seek to contemplate, appreciate, and apply these doctrines as they are revealed in Holy Scripture and summarized in the Reformed confessions to the end that God might be glorified “in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations” (Ephesians 3.21). (2 hours.)

### Required reading

Ephesians (students are required to read Ephesians slowly, prayerfully, meditatively at least four times over the course of the semester)

Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*, Volume 4 (Baker, 2008). ISBN 13: 9780801026577

Kevin DeYoung and Greg Gilbert, *What is the Mission of the Church? Making Sense of Social Justice, Shalom, and the Great Commission* (Crossway, 2011). ISBN 13: 9781433526909

Michael W. Goheen, *A Light to the Nations: The Missional Church and the Biblical Story* (Baker, 2011). ISBN 13: 9780801031410

J. van Genderen and W. H. Velema, *Concise Reformed Dogmatics*, chap. 14 (available on reserve in the library)

Vern Poythress, “What are Spiritual Gifts?” (available from professor)

Cornelis Venema, “The Doctrine of the Sacraments and Baptism according to the Reformed Confessions” (available from professor)

Cornelis Venema, “The Doctrine of the Lord’s Supper in the Reformed Confessions” (available from professor)

John Webster, “On Evangelical Ecclesiology,” *Ecclesiology* 1 (2004): 9-35 (available from professor)

Other short articles and essays will be made available over the course of the semester.

### Assignments

- 1. Ephesians report (5 % of final grade):** Students are required to read Ephesians slowly, prayerfully, and meditatively at least four times over the course of the semester. Students will provide a reading report on the final exam indicating whether or not they have done so.
- 2. Reading report (20 % of final grade):** Attached to the final exam, students will turn in a reading report stating the percentage of the assigned readings that they have read with reasonable care over the course of the semester.
- 3. Exams (60 % of final grade):** Students will take two exams over the course of the semester. Exams will test students' comprehension and ability to communicate doctrinal topics covered in class lectures, readings, and the Reformed confessions.
- 4. Reflection paper (15 % of final grade):** Students will write a theological reflection paper on a topic to be assigned by the professor. Details forthcoming.

## Academic Policies

- 1. Late assignments:** Apart from exceptional circumstances, I will not accept late assignments for credit.
- 2. Plagiarism:** Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will result in a failing grade for the course.

## Office hours

I am generally available for appointments after 2pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. If that does not fit your schedule, we can arrange something else. Please email me ([sswain@rts.edu](mailto:sswain@rts.edu)) or Ceci Helm ([chelm@rts.edu](mailto:chelm@rts.edu)) to make an appointment.

## Select Bibliography

James Bannerman, *The Church of Christ*, 2 vols.

J. Todd Billings, *Union with Christ: Reframing Theology and Ministry for the Church*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

John Calvin, *Treatises on the Sacraments*

Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens*

Michael Horton, *People and Place: A Covenant Ecclesiology*

Hans Küng, *The Church*

Martin Luther, *On the Councils of the Church*

Stuart Robinson, *The Church of God as an Essential Element of the Gospel*

Gregg Strawbridge, ed., *The Case for Covenantal Infant Baptism*

Carl Trueman, *The Creedal Imperative*

# REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SYSTEM

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv\* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Ecclesiology and Sacraments

Professor: Scott R. Swain

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2013

<b><u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u></b>		<b><u>Rubric</u></b>	<b><u>Mini-Justification</u></b>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Exams, reflection paper
<b>Scripture</b>	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	Focus of all ST courses
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Focus of all ST courses
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	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 engagement with other views of the sacraments
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Sound understanding of biblical theology promotes sound preaching
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Sound understanding of church and sacraments promotes sound worship practices
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.	Strong	Sound understanding of church and sacraments promotes wise pastoral ministry
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Biblical bases for denominational distinctives are addressed to some degree