

Abstract

IS 5127 -- What is the Church?

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The John Leland Center for Theological Studies
Fall 2011, Monday, 8:10 – 9:50 PM

Course Objectives

What is the Church? is an integrative seminar designed to provide the student with a holistic vision of the church of Jesus Christ. The course include an analysis of the biblical theology of the church through Old and New Testament images; a study of the models of the church: the church as institution, the church as mystical communion, church as sacrament, church as herald, and church as servant; and the reassessment of the four “marks” of the Church expressed since the Council of Constantinople: unity, sanctity, catholicity and apostolicity.

An important part of the course will be the analysis of denominational ecclesiology, especially the Baptist way of being the church, and what are the Baptist distinctives: congregationality, priesthood of the believers, community of faith, among others.

Readings will be assigned equivalent to class time. Two sermons will be written on the images and nature of the church. A paper of 1800 to 2500 words will be required, on the ecclesiality of the church. Evaluation of ecclesial models in the Washington area will be done.

Required Bibliography

Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. Expanded Edition. New York: Image Books/Doubleday, 2002. ISBN 0-385-13368-5.

Ferguson, Everett. *The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. ISBN 0-8028-4189-9.

Kung, Hans. *The Church*, Garden City: Image Books, 1976. ISBN 0-385-11367-6.

Shurden, Walter. *Proclaiming the Baptist Vision: The Church*. Macon: Smyth & Helwys, 1996. ISBN 1-57312-024-3.

Volf, Miroslaf. *After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998. ISBN 0-8028-4440-5.