



Munster Bible College
The Church: Its Theology and Practice
February 3-8, 2025
Instructor: Kirk M. Wellum
Course Syllabus

I. Course Description

This course, initially centered on pastoral theology, has evolved to cover a wider range of topics including church structure, leadership, and its worldwide mission in anticipation of Christ's second coming. While the course will explore the responsibilities of elders and deacons in pastoral roles, its teachings are applicable to all believers, as we are all called to serve each other with love and participate in sharing the gospel. As the instructor, I am teaching this expanded version of the course for the first time, aiming to equip all participants to fulfill their roles as prophets, priests, and kings in today's world.

II. Course Objectives

As a result of taking this course the student should:

- Appreciate the importance of the church in the salvific plan of God.
- Understand what the Bible teaches about church leadership and ministry.
- Become familiar with the particular joys and sorrows of church ministry.
- Be equipped to assess God's call on their own lives in connection with the church.
- Possess tools that will help all Christians avoid the pitfalls of ministry by God's grace.
- Prepare students to love and serve the people of God within the local church.
- Even where students are not called to serve in an official capacity, they will gain an appreciation the challenges of ministry so they can better support those called to serve in this way.

These course objectives will be achieved in the following ways:

- Readings in the course texts.
- Course lectures and discussion.
- Written review of three of the required reading books.
- Paper which allows the student to investigate a specific theological doctrine.
- A personal reflection paper where students writes about what they have learned in the course and its application to their Christian lives and ministry.

III. Course Content

The curriculum consists of 21 sessions (lectures) exploring diverse subjects centered on Christian ministry within Christ's church. Beginning with fundamental principles of biblical interpretation and ecclesiology, the course progresses to examine various aspects of contemporary Christian service. Although not comprehensive, this study provides students with a framework to analyze additional ministry-related topics they may encounter.

Lecture 01: The Doctrine of the Church - Theological Foundations 1 – Hermeneutics

Lecture 02: The Doctrine of the Church - Theological Foundations 2 – Ecclesiology

Lecture 03: The Doctrine of the Church - Theological Foundations 3 – Ecclesiology

Lecture 04: The Doctrine of the Church - Theological Foundations 4 – Ecclesiology

Lecture 05: Christian Character and Ministry

Lecture 06: Private and Public Prayer

Lecture 07: The Ministry of the Word

Lecture 08: The Inner Life

Lecture 09: Marriage and Family, Mentoring, Continuing Education, Avoiding Ministerial Quirks, etc.

Lecture 10: The Challenge of Technology and Plagiarism

Lecture 11: The Joys of Christian Ministry

Lecture 12: The Regulative Principle, Gospel Preaching, and Evangelism

Lecture 13: Premarital Counselling and Marriage

Lecture 14: On Death and Dying

Lecture 15: The Lord's Supper

Lecture 16: The Ordinance of Baptism

Lecture 17: Church Business Matters

Lecture 18: Pastoral Visitation and Counselling

Lecture 19: Encouraging Community

Lecture 20: Leadership, Goal Setting, Networking, Ordination

Lecture 21: Quality Control, Coming and Going

IV. DIPLOMA Course Texts

Recommended Resources

Alexander, Paul and Dever, Mark. *The Deliberate Church*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005.
ISBN – 10: 1581347383 ISBN – 13: 9781581347388

Beeke, Joel R. and Thompson, Nick. *Pastors and their Critics: A Guide to Coping with Criticism in the Ministry*. Phillipsburg: P&R Publishing, 2020.

Dever, Mark and Leeman, Jonathan (eds). *Baptist Foundations: Church Government in an Anti-Institutional Age*. B&H Publishing Group, 2015. ASIN: B00YBFFESI

Dever, Mark and Dunlop Jamie. *The Compelling Community: Where God's Power Makes a Church Attractive*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-1433543548

Helopoulos, Jason. *The New Pastor's Handbook: Help and Encouragement for the First Years of Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2015. ISBN—13: 978-0801018350

Baxter, Richard. *The Reformed Pastor*. Carlisle: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2005.
ISBN-10: 1573832014 ISBN-13: 9781573832014

Bridges, Charles. *The Christian Ministry*. Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1976.
ISBN - 10: 0851510876 ISBN - 13: 9780851510873

Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church – Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2006. ISBN – 10: 0830815341 ISBN – 13: 9780830815340

Croft, Brian and Adkins, Jason. *Gather God's People – Understand, Plan, and Lead Worship in Your Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2015. ASIN: B00LOSZIDU

Croft, Brian and Newton, Phil A. *Conduct Gospel-Centered Funerals – Applying the Gospel at the Unique Challenges of Death*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014

Croft, Brian. *Prepare Them To Shepherd*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014.
_____. *Visit The Sick*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing, 2014.

Currie, John. *The Pastor as Leader – Principles and Practices For Connecting Preaching and Leadership*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2024. ISBN-13: 978-1433590153

Easley, Kendell H and Morgan, Christopher W. *The Community of Jesus: A Theology of the Church*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishing Group, 2013.

Marshall, Colin and Payne, Tony. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift That Changes Everything*. Sydney: Matthias Media, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-1925424669

Spurgeon, C. H. *An All-Round Ministry*. Charleston: Bibliobazaar, 2008.
ISBN - 10:1437506305 ISBN - 13:9781437506303

Spurgeon, C. H. *Lectures To My Students*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1979.
ISBN – 10: 0310329116 ISBN – 13: 9780310329114

V. DIPLOMA Course Requirements

The grade involves three parts: 2 book reviews, a personal reflection paper, and a research paper.

I. Two Book reports = 20% each report

- a. Report 1 – One of the recommended texts.
- b. Report 2 – One of the recommended texts.
- c. Note: Other books may be substituted by permission of the instructor.

Students are required to compose two book reports based on selected texts from the recommended reading list. Each report should be between 6 and 10 pages in length, containing 2000 to 3000 words. In these reports, students should:

1. Clarify the book's intended objective
2. Outline the author's approach to achieving this objective
3. Provide personal insights on whether the author successfully met their goal
4. Evaluate the book's practical applications in the context of Christian ministry

(Due 26 April 2025)

II. DIPLOMA Research Paper = 50% of final mark

The assignment requires a paper of 15-20 pages or 4,000-6,000 words, not including the bibliography. Use double spacing, 1-inch margins, and 12-point font in *Times New Roman* or a similar style like *Calibri*. Include proper footnotes and a comprehensive bibliography citing all sources used.

Students may select any topic related to the church, the pastoral role, or Christian ministry in general. Options include analyzing a scripture passage relevant to pastoral ministry or addressing a ministerial challenge and proposing a solution based on biblical principles. All chosen topics must receive instructor approval before beginning the paper.

(Due 26 April 2025)

III. DIPLOMA Personal Reflection Paper = 10% of final mark

The personal reflection paper is 5 pages and gives the student a chance to reflect upon the course and the things they have learned or come to appreciate about the church and Christian ministry as a result. Their spiritual appropriation and application of the scriptures is of special interest.

(Due 26 April 2025)

TBS GRADING SCALE

90% - 100% A+	77% - 79% B+	67% - 69% C+	57% - 59% D+	0% - 49% F
85% - 89% A	73% - 76% B	63% - 66% C	53% - 56% D	
80% - 84% A-	70% - 72% B-	60% - 62% C-	50% - 52% D-	

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

A computer with basic internet access will be needed for this course

COURSE POLICIES

Late Work: Points received for any late assignment will be reduced by 25% for every two days late. Unless every assignment is completed, you will receive a failing grade for the course.

Respect for Divergent Viewpoints: Students and faculty are to show appropriate respect for each other even when divergent viewpoints are expressed through class assignments and discussion boards. Such respect does not require agreement with or acceptance of divergent viewpoints.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students who pass off ideas or words of another person as their own without crediting the source are guilty of intellectual property theft or literary theft better known as plagiarism. Students who conduct any part of their participation in the course in a fraudulent or deceptive manner are guilty of cheating. Students caught in either of these acts of academic misconduct will be reported to the Board of MBC, resulting in disciplinary action up to and including failing the course and academic dismissal.

Special Needs: As an institution, we strive to work with students and any challenges they face to the full degree possible. If there are any physical or mental challenges that might need special accommodation, please contact the instructor prior to or on the first day of class.

Grievances and Grade Disputes: If a student has a concern about a grade that he or she received, the student is expected to request clarification from instructor via email. If the student still has significant concern, he or she may contact the Board of MBC.

Course and Syllabus Modification (Disclaimer): This syllabus is intended to reflect accurately the learning objectives, instructional format, readings, activities, evaluation criteria, policies and procedures, and other information necessary for students to complete this course. The instructor reserves the right to modify any portion of this syllabus as deemed necessary to maintain the integrity of the learning experience as a result of events and circumstances that occur during the course.

If there are any questions about the course please do not hesitate to speak to the instructor at the breaks, after class, or get in touch with me by email at kirk.wellum@tbs.edu.