



## Ekklesia: The Doctrine of the Church

8 Sessions | Fall 2023 | 7:25–8:30 pm | Waterbrooke Church, Lower Level  
 Gabriel D. Zepeda | [gabe@wbfellowship.org](mailto:gabe@wbfellowship.org)

### Course Description

An in-depth investigation of ecclesiology, the doctrine of the church. This introductory study explores the biblical and theological nature, purpose, and function of the local church.

### Course Objectives

- 1) **Knowledge objective:** Gain familiarity with the biblical-theological essentials of the church.
- 2) **Attitude objective:** Cultivate a heart of worship with a greater appreciation for the gospel.
- 3) **Skill objective:** Critically assess the doctrine of the church in order to identify a healthy church, serve as a faithful church member, practice the one another's, and engage in mission.

### Suggested Reading

Dever, Mark E. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. 3rd ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.  
 ———. *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

### Course Schedule

Session Date	Topic	Suggested Reading
09/13/23	Session 1: The Gospel & the Church's Mission	<i>Nine Marks</i> , 85–103
09/20/23	Session 2: The Christian in Community	<i>The Church</i> , 3–14
09/27/22—No Session	**Small Group Leaders Meeting**	**No Reading**
10/04/23	Session 3: Baptism	<i>The Church</i> , 99–107
10/11/23	Session 4: Church Membership	<i>Nine Marks</i> , 155–178
10/18/23	Session 5: Christian Service & Spiritual Gifts	<i>The Church</i> , 69–77
10/25/23—No Session	**Small Group Leaders Meeting**	**No Reading**
11/01/23	Session 6: The Lord's Table	<i>The Church</i> , 107–112
11/08/23	Session 7: Church Discipline	<i>Nine Marks</i> , 181–205
11/15/23	Session 8: Church Leadership	<i>Nine Marks</i> , 231–257
11/22/23—No Session	**Happy Thanksgiving!**	**No Reading**

## Recommended Reading

- Allison, Gregg R. *Sojourners and Strangers: The Doctrine of the Church*. Foundations of Evangelical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Anyabwile, Thabiti M. *What Is a Healthy Church Member?* 9Marks. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. Translated by John W. Doberstein. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1954.
- Bridges, Jerry. *True Community: The Biblical Practice of Koinonia*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2012.
- Dever, Mark E. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. 3rd ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- . *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.
- Ferguson, Sinclair B. *The Holy Spirit*. Contours of Christian Theology. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.
- Greear, J. D. *Gospel*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2011.
- Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Repr., Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994.
- Jamieson, Bobby. *Going Public: Why Baptism Is Required for Church Membership*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015.
- Keller, Timothy J. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-centered Ministry in Your City*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.
- Leeman, Jonathan. *Church Discipline: How the Church Protects the Name of Jesus*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- . *Church Membership: How the World Knows Who Represents Jesus*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Mack, Wayne A., and David Swavely. *Life in the Father's House: A Member's Guide to the Local Church*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1996.
- Newton, Phil A., and Matt Schmucker. *Elders in the Life of the Church: Recovering the Biblical Model for Church Leadership*. 9Marks: Life in the Church. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2014.
- Ortlund, Raymond C. *The Gospel: How the Church Portrays the Beauty of Christ*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad!: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2022.
- Rainer, Thom S. *I Am a Church Member*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2013.
- Rinne, Jeramie. *Church Elders: How to Shepherd God's People Like Jesus*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014.
- Smethurst, Matt. *Deacons: How they Serve and Strengthen the Church*. 9Marks: Building Healthy Churches. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.
- Strauch, Alexander. *Biblical Eldership: An Urgent Call to Restore Biblical Church Leadership*. 3rd ed. Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2006.
- . *Paul's Vision for the Deacons: Assisting the Elders with the Care of God's Church*. Littleton, CO: Lewis and Roth Publishers, 2017.
- Waters, Guy Prentiss. *The Lord's Supper: As the Sign and Meal of the New Covenant*. Short Studies in Biblical Theology. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2019.