



Queensland  
Theological College



# TH404/604

## Church, Sacraments and Ministry

### Unit Outline

#### **About this Unit Outline**

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Church, Sacraments and Ministry**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

**SEMESTER 2 2018**

## Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at [www.acttheology.edu.au](http://www.acttheology.edu.au)

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the ACT's **Academic Misconduct Policy**, as well as ACT **Late Penalties Policy** and **Extensions Policy**, all of which are available on the ACT's website. Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the relevant ACT Policies.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Handbook, headed **"Guidelines for Essays in Coursework Units"** (see also the QTC Student Handbook). All essays and assignments should comply with these standards.

# Information about this unit

## Unit description

The unit *Church, Sacraments and Ministry* is designed to introduce students to those doctrines which deal with how the Christian God acts to establish a people for himself. This involves examination of the issues involving the corporate dimension of Christian existence: the nature and purpose of the church, ministry, and leadership, as well aspects of the church's life such as mission, worship and sacraments, such that you will hopefully begin to see some of the implications for how Christians conduct themselves in the household of God. This unit will consider these fundamental Christian teachings as they are presented in the Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments, and in light of debates and insights past and present.

## Learning Outcomes

### TH404 Learning Outcomes

On completion of the unit, students will:

#### Know and understand:

*In relation to the people of God:*

- The relation between kingdom and church
- The church: its nature, marks, authority and mission
- The nature and forms of ministry
- The denominations

*In relation to prayer, worship and the sacraments*

- Word and sacrament
- Christian initiation
- The Lord's Supper
- Prayer

#### Be able to:

- Interpret the Bible theologically
- Understand the major creeds and confessions and other classical theological statements
- Trace the interrelationships with the major themes of Christian theology
- Identify the role of cultural and ecclesial contexts in the task of Christian theology
- Analyse the relationship between Christian doctrine and individual and corporate Christian life And
- Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection'

#### Be in a position to:

- Inform their Christian thinking in both formal and informal study with perspectives about the church, sacraments and ministry
- Show how understanding of the church, sacraments and ministry is appropriated in personal life and the life of the Christian community
- Apply the doctrines of the church, sacraments and ministry to situations and issues in contemporary church and society

### TH604 Learning Outcomes

On completion of the unit, students will:

Know and Understand:

*In relation to the people of God:*

- The relation between kingdom and church
- The church: its nature, marks, authority and mission
- The nature and forms of ministry
- The denominations

*In relation to prayer, worship and the sacraments*

- Word and sacrament
- Christian initiation
- The Lord's Supper
- Prayer
- Leading theologians and their interpretations of church, sacraments and ministry

Be able to:

- Interpret the Bible theologically
- Understand the major creeds and confessions and other classical theological statements
- Trace the interrelationships with the major themes of Christian theology
- Identify the role of cultural and ecclesial contexts in the task of Christian theology
- Analyse the relationship between Christian doctrine and individual and corporate Christian life
- Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection
- Discuss interpretations and applications of the church, sacraments and ministry

Be in a position to:

- Inform their Christian thinking in both formal and informal study with perspectives about the church, sacraments and ministry
- Show how understanding of the church, sacraments and ministry is appropriated in personal life and the life of the Christian community
- Apply the doctrines of the church, sacraments and ministry to situations and issues in contemporary church and society
- Evaluate uses of the doctrines of the church, sacraments and ministry

## How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The Theology units in the courses of the Australian College of Theology are designed to sum up biblical teaching in key areas and integrate your understanding of the content of the biblical texts taken as a whole with the insights of historical and contemporary theology on the matters in question.

The purpose of this unit is to help students to understand the place and nature of the church in God's plan, and to appreciate how as Christians we necessarily live as part of a greater whole, the people of God, whose destiny is to be united to Christ forever, together. As many students will graduate into positions of leadership in local churches, this unit will also consider the important and related topic of leadership and ministry within the church, as well as of two vital visible signs of God's grace given to the church by Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

TH404 is an advanced-level (400-level) core unit in the Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry and Associate Degree of Theology. TH604 is an advanced-level core unit in the Master of Divinity & Graduate Diploma of Divinity. As such TH404/604 has the following ACT pre-requisites:

- Successful completion of at least two of OT301/501, OT302/502, NT301/501, NT302/502;
- AND
- Successful completion of at least one foundation-level Christian Thought unit. (CH306/506 *The Reformation in Europe and Britain* is the unit you would usually take at QTC to meet this requirement.)

Normally at QTC, you will only be permitted to take TH404/604 once you have entered the second full-time year of your course (or part-time equivalent). GradDipDiv students are exempt from normal ACT prerequisite requirements, but at QTC will only be permitted to enrol in this unit provided they have already completed at least 16 cps with a Credit average or better, and with the permission of the unit lecturer.

## How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit is taught week by week throughout the Semester of 13 weeks. There are three classes each week, each of 50 minutes duration.

This unit is worth 4 credit points towards your degree. At Bachelor level, a 4 cp unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6-8 hrs per week, and 7-9 hours at MDiv level. Please speak with the lecturer as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you need to consistently spend more time than this on TH404/604.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre-reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you

anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date.

**Note:** Assignments submitted late and without an extension granted will incur late penalties (please refer to Student Handbook). Full attendance at lectures is required for all units in the ACT; repeated absences without reason and permission may result in failure of this unit.

## Teaching staff

LECTURER & UNIT CO-ORDINATOR

Dr Mark Baddeley

P 07 3062 6939

E: mbaddeley@qtc.edu.au

Please feel free to contact Mark if you have any problems or concerns about the course.

## Other Key Contacts

### Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3062 6939 extension 2

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

### Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

P 07 3062 6939, extension 2

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

### Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding resources for your assessment, finding full-text database articles, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, and for help with how to renew a book for longer or place a hold on a book currently out to another person.

P 07 3062 6939, extension 3

E library@qtc.edu.au

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

Subject to adjustment

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction, Creeds and Confessions on the Church
Week 2	Union with Christ as the entry point for the Church
Week 3	Early Church, Calvin, Modern Evangelical thinking on the Church
Week 4	The Church as Trinitarian and Eschatological (including the relationship of the Church and the Kingdom)
ESSAY WRITING WEEK – NO LECTURES	
Week 5	The Mission of the Church
Week 6	The relationship of the Church with broader society and civil government
Week 7	The nature of ministry in the Church – Word and service
Week 8	Office, gifting, godliness, gender
Week 9	Sacraments
HOLIDAYS – NO LECTURES	
Week 10	Baptism, Lord's Supper
Week 11	Church discipline
Week 12	Worship
Week 13	Prayer

In the case of this unit, we will cover the following topics over the course of the Semester, typically looking at them biblically, then in terms of how they have been understood historically, contemporary issues / challenges within the Christian and theological world, and in some cases also from the standpoint of Apologetics. Attention will also be given to how these teachings can be related and communicated in the context of ministry.

## TH404 Assessments

**Assessments are submitted online via Moodle**

**In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.**

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the ACT Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your assessment pieces must be within 10% of the prescribed word limit. Assessment pieces that are more than 10% longer than the prescribed word limit will be returned to students for reduction in length and resubmission. A Late Penalty of 3% per day will apply, commencing on the day that the assessment piece is returned to you for correction.

ASSESSMENTS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>3000 Word Essay</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p><b>Write a 3000 word Essay on ONE of the following topics:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Did "the church" exist in the Old Testament? What is the significance of your answer for how we understand the Bible's teaching on the nature of the church?</li> <li>2. Outline the theology of the church of EITHER Martin Luther OR of John Calvin OR of the Westminster Confession of Faith.</li> <li>3. What is the mission of the church?</li> <li>4. What is the nature and place of church discipline? How does your answer reflect the nature of the church? How does your answer promote the wellbeing of the church?</li> <li>5. What is the relationship of office and ministry?</li> <li>6. Is there a specific role for women in the Church? Are there any limitations on women's ministry? Is there anything ministry-wise that is particularly for women?</li> <li>7. Does Baptism do anything? How?</li> <li>8. In what sense (if any) is Christ present in the Lord's Supper?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Take-Home Exam</b></p> <p><b>2250 words</b></p> <p><b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p><b>A 2250 word Take-Home Exam</b> which will assess the topics in the unit not covered by the essay. The total word length of your examination script is to be 2250 words (with a 10% variation permitted, i.e. it should be between 2025 and 2475 words long).</p> <p>There will be three compulsory questions. Each answer is to be 750 words in length.</p> <p>Students will be supplied with the exam via Moodle <b>THREE</b> days before the due date.</p>

## TH604 Assessments

**Assessments are submitted online via Moodle**

**In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.**

Unless an extension has been applied for and granted in accordance with the ACT Late Penalty Policy found in the QTC Handbook, where a student submits an assessment past its due date, the assessment marks will be reduced at the rate of 3% of the total possible marks for the Assessment item per calendar day, up to 14 days late.

Your assessment pieces must be within 10% of the prescribed word limit. Assessment pieces that are more than 10% longer than the prescribed word limit will be returned to students for reduction in length and resubmission. A Late Penalty of 3% per day will apply, commencing on the day that the assessment piece is returned to you for correction.

ASSESSMENTS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>3,000 word Essay</b> <b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p><b>Write a 3000 word Essay on ONE of the following topics:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In what sense, if any, is the church EITHER an eschatological OR a Trinitarian entity?</li> <li>2. What is the relationship between the gospel and the Church?</li> <li>3. What is the Church? What is the Church for?</li> <li>4. Is there 'a' mission of the church?</li> <li>5. What is the relationship of office, leadership and ministry?</li> <li>6. Offer a theology of women's ministry, including any restrictions or unique features.</li> <li>7. Why do we baptize? Who should we baptize?</li> <li>8. Offer a theology of the Lord's Supper, including who should and should not partake.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Take-Home Exam</b> <b>3000 words</b> <b>50% of final grade</b></p>	<p><b>A 3000 word Take-Home Exam</b> which will assess the topics in the unit not covered by the essay. The total word length of your examination script is to be 3000 words (with a 10% variation permitted, i.e. it should be between 2700 and 3300 words long).</p> <p>There will be three compulsory questions. Each answer is to be 1000 words in length.</p> <p>Students will be supplied with the exam via Moodle <b>THREE</b> days before the due date.</p>

## Guide to Assessments

In this unit we are looking for both the research essay and the take home exam essays to offer a *sustained persuasive argument*. This involves several factors.

First, it requires you to have *articulated a clear answer to the question*—preferably one that you have written out in a sentence or two before you begin writing the essay. This answer should be clearly stated in the essay—often in the introduction, but certainly in the conclusion. Stronger essays are ones whose answers demonstrate one or more of: grasping the essence of the issues, offering something comprehensive, demonstrating a deeper understanding of the issues rather than one that, while accurate, is at a more introductory level, and showing an understanding of the implications of the answer.

Second, it requires you to *offer evidence* for your answer. There should be information in the essay that is relevant to the question and which supports your answer. Some essays may also want to discuss evidence that could be used to reject your answer and show why it doesn't actually do that when understood correctly.

Third, it requires you to *show how* the evidence you include actually does support your answer. A common mistake students make is to include information—quotes, Scriptural passages or the like—and do nothing with them but to have them in the essay as though their significance for their answer is self-evident. It almost never is to the reader (however much it might be to the writer) without explicit commentary that takes the reader by the hand and explains how that information helps supports the case they are making.

Fourth, it requires you to try and *persuade your reader that your answer is the correct one*. Good doctrine essays don't treat the exercise as a case of 'show and tell'—where the idea is simply to get all the ideas and information out and the order in which they come doesn't matter. Instead, the writer thinks about how to organize their material so as to build a case for their answer in the most persuasive fashion they can.

Finally, it requires you to engage with both Scripture and scholars and theologians. Ideally there should be signs that your answer is the way it is because you are convinced that that is what Scripture teaches. It should also be evident that you standing on the shoulders of others—modern scholars, and theologians modern and ancient, to help you read Scripture and think through the issues better than you could do on your own.

## Learning Resources

### Textbooks

There is no one (or two) particular works that we think cover the material of the unit so well and so comprehensively that it would justify us requiring you to buy it/them. There are a number of very good works available that are worth having on your shelf and using alongside others, and some of these are listed below.

In terms of where to spend your money, we think that, while the ecclesiology articulated by Calvin is not quite where contemporary evangelical Reformed doctrines of the church are, it is nonetheless a very useful block of material to work through, even though most students will likely differ somewhat from Calvin's positions on these topics. Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1559 edition (2 vols, ed. McNeill; trans. Battles), WJK, 1960. The most significant Protestant systematic theology ever written, it is still very helpful to consult, and you should all own a copy for the long term as well as for your studies at college.

Students should also own and refer to at least a couple of well-established quality Protestant expositions of Christian doctrine during the course which have been written in the past thirty years. Several such systematic theologies are listed below; some of these we personally agree with more than others, however they all have contributed substantially from a Protestant perspective.

### Other Key Reference Texts

There exists a very large number of recent works on the doctrines covered in this unit. One of the aims of this advanced unit is to help you to discover and evaluate these for yourself, as more material continues to be published over the coming decades. We have therefore listed below reference works and general systematic theologies as well as some entry-points to historical theology, that will help to introduce you to the issues and to identify and navigate your way through other materials, rather than listing specialist works that multiply and date rapidly – we've just listed a few key books in the area. See also the unit bibliography in the ACT Handbook. We will mention and discuss various particular authors and works as we move through the unit, and will also comment on "buying strategies" that different kinds of students might like to think about in relation to some of the works listed below.

### Recommended Books

Calvin, J. *Institutes of the Christian religion*, 2 vols. Edited by J. McNeill. Translated by F. Battles. Louisville, KY.: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

Horton, M. *The Christian Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI; Zondervan, 2011. Ch 22-26

Bloesch, D.G. *The Church*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2002. (More stimulating, but tends to be more on the evangelical left-wing)

Clowney, E. P. *The Church*. Leicester: IVP, 1995 (Less stimulating, but a 'safe pair of hands' that expounds a doctrine of the church that is a good expression of what Scripture teaches, and in a form that could be handed to a knowledgeable layperson.)

**OTHER USEFUL EXPOSITIONS:**

Erickson, M. J. *Christian Theology*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI, MI: Baker, 2003.

Frame, J. *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology*. Phillipsburg NJ: P&R, 2006.

Grenz, S. J. *Theology for the Community of God*. Grand Rapids, MI, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

Grudem, W. *Systematic Theology*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2007.

Kärkkäinen, V.-M. *The Doctrine of God: A Global Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI, MI: Baker, 2004.

McGrath, A. *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. London: Wiley-Blackwell 2006.

Migliore, D. *Faith with Understanding*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2004.

Oden, T. C. *Classic Christianity: A Systematic Theology*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD:**

Avis, P., Ed., *The Christian Church: An Introduction to the Major Traditions*. London: SPCK, 2002.

Goosen, G. *Bringing Churches Together*. Geneva: WCC, 2001.

Harper, B., and P. L. Metzger. *Exploring Ecclesiology: An evangelical and Ecumenical Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2009.

Husbands, M. and D. J. Treier. Eds. *The Community of the Word: Toward an Evangelical Ecclesiology*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2005.

Kärkkäinen, V.-M. *An Introduction to Ecclesiology. Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2003.

Kung, H. *The Church*. New Ed. London: Continuum, 2001.

Laniak, T. *Shepherds After My Own Heart*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2006.

Longenecker, R. N. *Community Formation in the Early Church and in the Church Today*. Peabody MA, Hendrickson, 2002.

McLaren, B. *The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Rev. Ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

Newbigin, L. *The Household of God*. Biblica Classics Library. Carlisle: Paternoster, 2002.

Snyder, H. *The Community of the King*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2004.

Stackhouse, J. G., Ed. *Evangelical Ecclesiology: Reality or Illusion?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2003.

Wright, C. J. H. *The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2006.

### **PRAYER, WORSHIP and SACRAMENTS:**

Armstrong, J. H. Ed. *Understanding Four Views of Baptism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan: 2007.

Bloesch, D. G. *The Church: Sacraments, Worship, Ministry, Mission*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2006.

Chan, S. *Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshipping Community*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2006.

Goldsworthy, G. *Prayer and the Knowledge of God*. Leicester: IVP, 2004.

Kasper, W. *Sacrament of Unity: The Eucharist and the Church*. New York: Crossroad, 2004.

Peterson, D. *Engaging with God: A Biblical Theology of Worship*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2002.

Vander Zee, L. J. *Christ, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper : Recovering Sacraments for Evangelical Worship*. Downers Grove IL: IVP, 2004.

Welker, M. *What Happens in Holy Communion?* Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.

### **CLASSICS:**

ARCIC. *The Church as Communion*. London: SPCK, 1991.

Banks, R. *Paul's Idea of Community*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1994.

Beasley-Murray, P. *Anyone For Ordination?* Tunbridge Wells: MARC, 1993.

Dulles, A. *Models of the Church*. New York: Image, 1987.

Schrotenboer, P. *An Evangelical Response to Baptism, Eucharist & Ministry*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1992.

Volf, M. *After our Likeness: The Church as Image of the Trinity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1998.

## ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4