

Ministry in the Local Church

Foundations: South Bible Institute

Introduction

The Church is the body and bride of Christ. It is entirely His. He made it possible through His death and resurrection. He gave it power by sending the Holy Spirit to lead, guide, and equip it. He presides over it currently from heaven, where He intercedes on its behalf. He is the object of its affection and identity.

Yet more often than not, our understanding and evaluation of the Church comes more from secular sources rather than Christ Himself through the Bible. Our hope for this course, then, is to dig deep into Scripture to understand what the Bible teaches about what the church is, what the mission of the church is, and how you can participate in that mission.

Course Objectives

- Deepened love for Christ and His Church
- Better understanding of the biblical nature and mission of the Church
- Better equipped to evaluate the ministry of the local church
- Better equipped to serve the local church in some capacity.

Course Requirements

- Attend each class
- Complete assigned readings by beginning of each class
- Participate in discussion
- One Paper (8-10 pages). Must include these subheadings:
 - o *Introduction* (Why is it important that we think rightly about the church? What are some of the dangers of thinking unbiblically about the church? What are some common secular sources that have influenced the church in the last few decades?)
 - o *The Nature of the Church* (Define “church.” What distinguishes the church from other organizations? Who is eligible to join the church? How should the church be led? What is the difference between the visible and invisible church? What is the difference between the local church and the global church?)
 - o *The Mission of the Church* (What is the mission of the church? Who participates in this mission? What tools are necessary to carry it out? How should the success of the mission be evaluated? When is the mission of the church completed?)
 - o *Reflection* (What have I learned about the nature and mission of the church? What is my role at South Church to accomplish the mission? What steps do I need to take to participate in the mission of the church?)

Required Texts

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. 3rd Edition. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway. 2013.

Marshall, Colin and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media. 2009.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
9/18	Introduction: The Church	Dever (25-37); Marshall/Payne (7-28)
9/25	Preaching and Listening	Dever (39-62); Marshall/Payne (29-39)
10/2	Everyone's a Theologian	Dever (65-82); Marshall/Payne (41-59)
10/9	The Gospel of Grace	Dever (85-103); Marshall/Payne (61-80)
10/16	True Conversion	Dever (105-124); Marshall/Payne (81-91)
10/23	Proclaiming Christ	Dever (127-152); Marshall/Payne (93-108)
10/30	Who Belongs to the Church?	Dever (155-177); Marshall/Payne (109-126)
11/6	Concern for Godliness	Dever (181-205); Marshall/Payne (127-142)
11/13	Discipleship and Growth	Dever (207-228); Marshall/Payne (143-150)
11/20	Church Leadership	Dever (231-257); Marshall/Payne (151-167)
12/16	Paper Due	