

### Course Overview

- WEEK 1: Introduction to Theology, The Bible, and Sources of Authority (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 1)
- WEEK 2: The Trinity (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 2-3, 6)
- WEEK 3: Man and Sin (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 5)
- WEEK 4: Salvation (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 4, 7)
- WEEK 5: The Church (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 8-9)
- WEEK 6: The End (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 10)

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## Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of The Church

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### Table Discussion

How do you believe most of our culture views the Church & churches?

Why does studying the history of the Church matter? (write a short list)

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## Tonight's Roadmap

1. The "Big C" Church (the universal Church)
2. The "little c" church (individual churches)
3. The "Big U" church (what church means for YOU)

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## Why Ecclesiology Matters

- Ecclesiology is about our family – so it's about us
- Drama today, drama always
- The Church is important to Christ
- The world doesn't get it (at best)
- Church isn't just "an institution"
- Church isn't just another "spiritual discipline"
- So you're led well
- So you're a great church member
- It matters for your kids
- It matters for the "next 100"
- It matters for the watching world
- It matters for the watching non-world!

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## The Universal Church

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## The Universal Church

From the Council of Constantinople (381 AD):

“We believe in...

- one
- holy,
- catholic (universal),
- and apostolic

Church.”

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## The Universal Church

There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:4-6 ESV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...

Hebrews 12:1 ESV

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## Group Discussion

Why does Church History matter to us today?

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## Family History

### Birth of the Church (around 30 AD)

- Death and resurrection of Christ
- Pentecost: 50 days after resurrection
- 3000 believe in one day (Acts 2)

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## Family History

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

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## Family History

### Apostolic Age (First Century AD)

- Fire destroys Rome (64 AD)
- Titus Destroys the Temple (70 AD)
- Persecution ebbs and flows
- Planting/growth of churches in various cities
- Apostle John dies (about 100 AD)

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## Family History

### Growth & Refining Fires (100s & 200s)

- Church Fathers: Clement, Ignatius, Polycarp, etc.
- *Pax Romana* makes Christianity illegal
- Early cults threaten the faith

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## Family History

### Doctrine & Ease (300s – 500s)

- Edict of Milan (313)
- Councils help define orthodox doctrine
- Theologians (good & bad): Augustine, Ambrose, John Chrysostom, Arius, Pelagius, etc.
- Roman Empire declines and falls

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## Family History

### Division, Decline, & Decadence (600s – 1400s)

- Final universal Councils
- Monks, Missionaries, Scholars, Mystics
- Great Schism (1054)
- Four Crusades (1095-1204)
- Bubonic Plague kills 1/3 of Europe (1347-1350)
- Pre-Reformers: Wycliffe, Hus, Erasmus, etc.

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## Family History

### The Reformation Years (1500s – 1600s)

- Luther posts his 95 Theses (1517)
- The printing press & Bible translations
- Council of Trent (1545-1563)
- Persecutions of the Church, by the Church
- Early denominations

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## Family History

### Enlightenment & Modernity (1600s – 1800s)

- Revolutions, Revivals, and Reason
- Great Awakening (1730s-1750s) and Second Great Awakening (1790s-1840s)
- More denominations & movements start
- Science starts to supplant religion for many
- Modern Missions Movement

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## Family History

### From Modern to Post-Modern (1900s – Now)

- Azusa Street Revival (1906)
- Edinburgh Conference (1910) & Lausanne Congress (1974)
- Prolific international missions & Bible translation
- Dead Sea Scrolls discovered (1947)
- Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)
- Theological Liberalism vs. Fundamentalism/Evangelicalism

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## Family History

What's actually "historical"?

What comes next?

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## Table Discussion

What is your own "church history"?  
(Describe the churches you've been a part of)

Which part of "church" do you like the most? Which part do you find hardest?

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## Individual Churches

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## Family Traits

### Biblical Descriptions of the Church

- One guy listed 96 descriptions!
- *Ekklesia*
- A Family
- A Fellowship
- Bride of Christ
- Body of Christ

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## Family Traits

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:9 ESV

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## Family Traits

### Key Aspects of Individual Churches

1. Orthodoxy
2. Order
3. Ordinances

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## Family Traits

### Orthodoxy – Right Teaching

- “That Faith which has been believed everywhere, always, by all” – Vincent of Lerins
- True churches (and the True Church) consistently teach the core beliefs of the Faith

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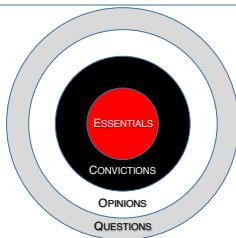
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## Family Traits



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## Family Traits

### Order

- Orthopraxy, Prescription, and Description
- Offices (Elders, Deacons, others?)
- Membership (or not?)
- Members' Role in Church Government
- Church Discipline

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## Family Traits

### Ordinances

- Baptism – One-time remembrance of Christ death and resurrection (Romans 6:1-4)
- Lord's Supper – Ongoing remembrance of Christ death and resurrection (Luke 22:7-23)

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## Individual Churches: Family Traits

### Three Missions

1. Mission to the Lord
2. Mission to each other
3. Mission to the world

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## Family Traits

### Mission to the Lord

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1 ESV

...through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 3:8-10

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## Family Traits

### Mission to Each Other

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:14-16 ESV

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## Family Traits

### Mission to the World

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20 ESV

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Family Relatives, Reunions, & Fakes

- Parachurch Ministries
- Denominations
- Cults

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Church & You

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Church & You

- Three Missions
1. Mission to the Lord
  2. Mission to fellow members
  3. Mission to the world

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## Church & You

### 5 Biblical Musts that Can Get Lost

1. **Assembly & Its “Rub”** (Heb. 10:25)
2. **Authority** (1 Thess. 5:12, 1 Pet. 5:2)
3. **Equipping for Ministry** (Eph. 4:11-12)
4. **Ministry of the Saints** (Eph. 4:11-12, 1 Cor. 12)
5. **Unity & Impartiality** (1 Cor. 12, Jam. 2:1-5)

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## Church & You

### Watermark Community Church

- Has a history...
- Has doctrines...
- Has values...
- Asks some things of you...

(start at [watermark.org](http://watermark.org), About, Beliefs)

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