



## Module Description

Module: Doctrine of The Church (ST80611)

20 Units (40 Study Hours) 6 Credits

Lecturer: Rev John D Brand (john.brand@edinburghbiblecollege.co.uk)

**DESCRIPTION:** A study of the biblical teaching on the doctrine of the church, giving focus to the identity, purpose, structure, leadership and members of the church.

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of the student's successful completion of this module, s/he will:

Head: have a biblical understanding of the nature and purpose of the church  
have a clear grasp of their own position on such issues as baptism, church government and the role of women

Heart: have a greater love for the church as God's primary means of engagement in the world

Hand: be able to apply their understanding of the church as they look for a church to be part of or to serve in  
play a more effective role as a member of a local church

**READING:**

Dever, M *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible* (B&H, 2012)

Balchin, John F *I want to know what the Bible says about the Church*  
Kingsway Publications

Carson, Don A *The Church in the Bible and the World*  
Baker / Paternoster

Ferguson, Sinclair *Devoted to God's Church* Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2020

Grudem, Wayne *Systematic Theology* Leicester: IVP, 1994 (pp853 – 1049)

Clowney, Edmund *The Church* Leicester: IVP, 1995

MacArthur, John *The Master's Plan for the Church* Chicago: Moody, 2008

Dever, Mark and Platt, David *9 Marks of a Healthy Church* Wheaton: Crossway, 2013

DeYoung, Kevin *Why we Love the Church* Chicago: Moody, 2009

Wright, D *Three Views on Baptism* Leicester: IVP, 2009

Bridge, Donald and Phipers, David *The water that divides* Leicester: IVP, 1977

**SCHEDULE:**

Week 1: Why Study the Church?

Week 2: What is the Church – by definition

Week 3: What is the Church – by description

Week 4: The Sacraments – Baptism

Week 5: The Sacraments – Communion

Week 6: Forms of Church Government

Week 7: Offices in the Church

Week 8: Church Membership

Week 9: Church Discipline

**ASSIGNMENT:** See Over



## Module Description

Based on the course work covering **Offices in the Church** and **Forms of Church Government** write up a case study of a local church.

1. Base the study either on your home church.
2. Use your own knowledge of the situation but also talk to some of the church leaders to verify your own insights as well as learn from them.
3. Compare the situation you are studying with the principles outlined in the course, showing where it closely follows those principles and where, in your opinion, it doesn't.
4. Identify what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the form of church government being used in that congregation. *Your opinions are strictly confidential and solely for the purpose of this assignment.*
5. Use the following outline to complete your case study.

### Case Study Outline:

1. Name of Church
2. Denominational affiliation (if any)
3. Number of people in church membership
4. Average number of attenders at Sunday worship
5. Which of the three models of church government does the church most closely resemble?
6. Describe, briefly, the leadership structure of the church you are studying.
7. Which teaching about the role of church officers does the church, in your opinion, most closely model and which least closely?
8. What are the strengths of their form of church government, in the opinion of the church leaders and in your own opinion?
9. What are the weaknesses of their form of church government, in the opinion of the church leaders and in your own opinion?