

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Church History: The First 1000 years

Course Description:

Church History I will focus on the development of the Christian faith from the beginning when eleven excited and hopeful disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven to the church we know today. We will look at conflicts over what writings were chosen as New Testament Books and why. We will also look at how the Church grew in its comprehension of the God of the Universe had revealing Himself in the person of Jesus of Nazareth and providing for our salvation. Many of the issues facing the Church have repeated themselves throughout history. Understanding these issues and how they were resolved will help us solidify our faith and meet challenges as they come our way.

Objectives

- Develop an understanding of the development of Christian thought and the issues bearing on that development.
- Gain an appreciation of how God used world events to grow and expand His church.
- Gain an understanding of historic challenges to an orthodox (or correct) understanding of God's activity in the world and be able to identify contemporary examples of these challenges.
- Apply understandings of historical events to our contemporary lives.

Outcomes

- An understanding of the development of Christian doctrine and practice and how it affects our faith.
- An appreciation for how God has moved His Church through history.
- Able to identify several heretical teachings and understand how they conflict with our faith as well as where they may resurface in the modern world.
- An appreciation for the origins of other faith traditions and an appreciation for why we understand our tradition to be most consistent with scripture and God's revelation in Jesus Christ.

Expectations

Read the text: [The Story of Christianity](#), by Justo L. Gonzalez. Lectures will be organized around a series of 'turning points' or crucial decisions in church history of this period that helped make the church what it is today. Each student will be expected to complete a mid-term exam, a final exam and occasional quizzes. Each week we will reflect on how the events we have covered events reverberate today and how they inform our faith today.