



CITIZENS CHURCH

Doctrine in a Divided Age

Citizens Church | Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Class Purpose

Acclaimed historian Philip Jenkins observed of the U.S., “the scale and speed of accumulated change since 2000 really has no precedent.” This rapid cultural change has had a polarizing effect across society, affecting relationships, politics, and churches. What should we believe about core doctrines of the faith? How should these doctrines impact cultural issues like critical race theory, LGBTQ+, church scandals, and persistent anxiety? *Doctrine in a Divided Age* is an eight-week course designed to help you comprehend key doctrines of the faith *and* their relevance for our cultural moment. Using the Apostles Creed as a framework, we will examine timeless truths to address timely issues.

The class format will be a combination of reading, instruction, and Q&A. Each class will have assignments to be completed in advance to increase your understanding of the material. We encourage you to bring your questions to class, ready to learn in community.

Reading:

John Frame, [Concise Systematic Theology](#)
Jonathan Dodson, [Our Good Crisis](#) (optional)

Course Overview:

Feb 8: *The Trinity in a Fractured World*

- Read Eph 1:3-14. Identify the roles of the Trinity. Read *Frame*, chp 3; *Dodson*, chp 1.

Feb 15: *Scripture in an Anti-Authority Age*

- Read Ps 19; 2 Tim 3:10-17 Write down 10 observations of Scripture. *Frame*, chp 5; *Dodson* 2.

Feb 22: *Sovereign God in an Anxious World*

- Read Luke 4:22-34. How does God’s sovereignty address anxiety? *Frame*, chp 1. *Dodson*, 9.

Feb 29: *Sacrifice of Christ in Power-centric World*

- Read Col 2:8-15. How does Christ confront powers? Read *Frame*, chp. 11. *Dodson*, 6.

Mar 7: *Humanity of Christ in a Hurting World*

- Read Phil 2:1-11. Make 5 observations of Jesus. Read *Frame*: chp 10. *Dodson*, 3.

Spring Break

Mar 21: *The Spirit in an Outraged World*

- Read Ezek 36; Gal 5. Describe the posture the Spirit compels. *Frame*, 12. *Dodson*, 8.

Mar 28: *Creator in an Age of Self*

- Read Gen 1 & Col 1:15-20. How is God involved in creation? *Frame*, chp 2. *Dodson*, 7.

Apr 4: *The Church in an Anti-Institutional Age* No assignment. *Frame*, 18. *Dodson*, 4.

The goal of this course is not merely to transfer information but to transform disciples. Doctrine is for practice. We want what was said of Jonathan Edwards to be true of us: “All his theology was practical, and all his practice was theological.”

