

# Study Guide to Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*

## Part 6 The Doctrine of the Church

**Read:** Chapter 44: The Church: Its Nature, Its Marks, and Its Purpose

**Q1:** What is the church? Define it biblically and explain what is meant by the visible, invisible, local, and universal church.

**Q2:** What are the distinguishing characteristics of a true church? Why does each “mark” matter?

**Q3:** Why does the church exist? In other words, what is the purpose of the church? Also, how should the purpose of the church impact the ministries of any local church?

**Read:** Chapter 45: The Purity and Unity of the Church

**Q4:** In your own words, define the purity of the church? How should a local church strive for greater purity?

**Q5:** If a local church lived in unity, as described in Scripture, what would it look like? In other words, describe the things that would characterize a biblically united church? When is it right to separate?

**Read:** Chapter 46: The Power of the Church

**Q6:** What is the purpose of church discipline?

**Q7:** What is the process of church discipline? Be detailed in your answer.

**Read:** Chapter 47: Church Government

**Q8:** Explain the offices of apostle, elder and deacon. In other words, describe the specific qualifications and responsibilities of each office.

**Q9:** What is the proper form of church government? Defend your answer from Scripture.

**Q10:** Should women serve as officers in the church? Present the biblical case for your answer.

**Read:** Chapter 48: The Means of Grace Within the Church

**Q11:** What is meant by the phrase “means of grace”?

**Q12:** How are these activities instrumental in bringing about spiritual growth? Give at least two specific examples.

**Read:** Chapter 49: Baptism

**Q13:** What is the proper mode of baptism? In other words, how should baptism be done? Why does it matter?

**Q14:** What is the symbolism and meaning of baptism?

**Q15:** Who should be baptized? Deal with the arguments often made by Protestant paedobaptists.

**Read:** Chapter 50: The Lord's Supper

**Q16:** What is the symbolism and meaning of the Lord's Table?

**Q17:** What should a worthy participant experience at the Table?

**Q18:** What did Jesus mean when He said "This is my body" and "This is my blood"?

**Read:** Chapter 51: Worship

**Q19:** In your own words, define and describe genuine worship. What things may be included in the worship of God, and what things must be excluded?

**Q20:** In what ways is genuine worship different from a merely external form of worship?

**Read:** Chapter 52: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1): General Questions

**Q21:** Define the phrase "spiritual gifts". What is their purpose?

**Q22:** Have some of the gifts ceased or are they all still in operation? Defend your position and answer some of the objections from the other viewpoint?

**Read:** Chapter 53: The Gifts of the Holy Spirit (2): Specific Gifts

**Q23:** Think critically. Are there any areas where you take exception with Grudem in this chapter? If so, please explain.

Turn in your answers to the elder in charge of this study and set up a meeting with him to discuss the doctrine of the church.