



## COURSE TITLE: CHURCH DOCTRINE

*Designation: Core Requirement for All Layreaders*

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### Overview

This course begins the discussion of God's purpose as defined through doctrine.

Doctrine is a 'container of beliefs' in which is contained our faith, not to restrict us but to help us understand the nature of God and His function in the world so we can be imitators of Christ.

### Objectives

On completion of this course you should be able to

1. Define the concept of doctrine.
2. Describe the difference between core and adiaphra doctrine.
3. Understand and describe how Scripture helps define doctrine with reference to John 1:1-18; Genesis 1:1-3; Philippians 2:1-11; and Mark 1: 1-45

### Video Assignment

- Watch Bishop Edwards' workshop video pertaining to Church Doctrine. The video may be viewed [online](#) from the diocesan layreader site or obtain a DVD by contacting the Bishop's secretary (1-506-459-1801). The Five Basic Truths video included in the bishop's talk can be found [here](http://www.pursuegod.org/basic-truths-every-christian-believes/) (<http://www.pursuegod.org/basic-truths-every-christian-believes/>).
- Refer to the Church Doctrine [lecture notes](#) as a summary of the video.

### Reading Assignment

- [Doctrines Matters: Chapter 1: Why Doctrine?](#) by Alister McGrath

### Practical Assignment

- Complete the questionnaire pertaining to doctrine, either [online](#) or on paper.

### Pause and Consider

Renowned author and theologian Alister McGrath states that doctrine "aims to tell the truth about things" and that "what you do with that truth – morally, spiritually or pastorally – is secondary to establishing that truth in the first place". (From *Doctrines Matters: Chapter 1: Why Doctrine?* By Alister McGrath.)

With that in mind, how has your understanding of doctrine shaped your faith journey?

### Supplementary Resources

#### BOOKS

- *Understanding Doctrine: Its Relevance and Purpose for Today (1992)* by Alister McGrath (Zondervan Publishing Company)

## WEBSITE RESOURCES

- *Doctrine Matters: Chapter 1: Why Doctrine?* By Alister McGrath [www.virtueonline.org](http://www.virtueonline.org)
- *Video of alister mcgrath doctrine*

## References

Edwards, David (2016). *Church Doctrine Video*. Available:

[http://anglican.nb.ca/video/160514\\_Bishop\\_David\\_Church\\_Doctrine.mp4](http://anglican.nb.ca/video/160514_Bishop_David_Church_Doctrine.mp4)

McGrath, Alister (2010). *Doctrine Matters: Chapter 1: Why Doctrine?* Available:

[www.virtueonline.org](http://www.virtueonline.org)