

WSBM exists to equip God's people – head, heart, and hands – through the Word of God, helping them know Jesus Christ personally and carry on His ministry.

COURSE: WSBM 140 Christian Theology and Living

INSTRUCTORS: Willingdon Pastors, Guest Lecturers (wsbm@willingdon.org)

DATE: Thursdays | September 25 – November 20, 2025 | 7-9pm | 3040

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Integrate the core theological convictions of Willingdon's denomination (Mennonite Brethren) within the larger framework of Jesus' Lordship. By examining the articles of the MB Confession, and the key biblical texts that define these articles, students will reflect on the practical impact of these convictions on the corporate church body, as well as the lives of individual church members, and develop a healthy approach to doing and living theology.

WSBM 140 Christian Theology and Living is one of the core courses at WSBM.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completing the course, students will:

- Understand the *MB Confession* and biblical texts that inform its articles
- Examine the practical implications of these convictions on the corporate church body, as well as the lives of individual church members
- Develop an understanding of engaging theological concepts within the church body

REQUIRED READING

Confession of Faith of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches: Commentary and Pastoral Application. Kindred Press, 2019.

The Holy Bible (in any quality translation – ESV, NIV, NRSV, NLT)

RECOMMENDED READING

Gilbert, Greg. *What is the Gospel?* Crossway, 2010.

Grenz, Stanley J., et al. *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms.* IVP, 1999.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *The Mission of God's People: A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission.* Zondervan, 2010.

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Articles from the Confession	Assignments Due
Sep 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Intro to the <i>Confession</i>1: God2: Revelation of God	
Oct 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3: Creation and Humanity4: Sin and Evil5: Salvation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reflection
Oct 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">6: Nature of the Church7: Mission of the Church10: Discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reflection
Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8: Christian Baptism9: Lord's Supper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ReflectionWhy a Confession of Faith?
Oct 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">11: Marriage, Singleness, and Family14: The Sanctity of Human Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reflection
Oct 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">15: Stewardship16: Work, Rest, and the Lord's Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reflection
Nov 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">12: Society and State13: Love and Nonresistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ReflectionHealthy Theological Discussion Paper
Nov 13	<i>Prayer Summit week – no class</i>	
Nov 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">17: Christianity and Other Faiths18: Christ's Final Triumph	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ReflectionApplied Reflection

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Weekly Confessional Reflections (40%)

Before each class, read the relevant *Articles*, *Commentary*, and *Pastoral Application* sections of the *Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith*, and submit an online weekly reflection for each article (minimum 100 words) that answers: How does the present article affect the practice/life of a local church corporately and individually?

Note: Reflections on Articles 1 and 2 due are at the same time as Articles 3-5.

2. "Why a Confession of Faith?" Paper (25%)

Read the [Introduction to the MB Confession of Faith \(2023\)](#), and answer the following in 750-1000 words:

- Regarding its theological terms, what stands out as important in the structure of the *Confession*?
- How can the *Confession* best function in your personal life, as well as within the Willingdon Church community (or your home church)?
- Describe the difference(s) between *creedal beliefs* and *shared convictions*.
- How should we handle differences of belief within the church body?

Due: October 16, 2025

3. Healthy Theological Discussion - Baptism Debate Report (25%)

Read the provided chapter on views of baptism from Greg Boyd and Paul Eddy's *Across the Spectrum*. In 750-1000 words, summarize each view's arguments (beginning with the

thesis/main point) in an unbiased manner. Include biblical texts cited as support. Then, critique each view and offer your rationale for the view you believe is most biblical.

Due: November 6, 2025

4. Applied Reflection (10%)

In 500-750 words, reflect on how your study and application of a specific teaching within one of the articles found in the *Confession of Faith* has impacted your life.

Due: November 20, 2025

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READING

Chandler, Matt. *The Explicit Gospel*. Crossway, 2014.

McKnight, Scot. *King Jesus Gospel: The Original Good News Revisited*. Zondervan, 2011.

Tennent, Timothy C. *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*. Zondervan, 2007.

Vanderstelt, Jeff. *Gospel Fluency, Speaking the Truths of Jesus into the Everyday Stuff of Life*. Crossway, 2017.

ON THE LORD'S PRAYER AND CREEDS

Wright, N. T. *The Lord and His Prayer*. Eerdmans, 2014.

McGowan, Andrew B. *Ancient Christian Worship: Early Church Practices in Social, Historical, and Theological Perspective*. Baker Academic, 2014.

ON CONVERSION

Smith, Gordon T. *Beginning Well: Christian Conversion & Authentic Transformation*. IVP, 2001.

ON CREATION

Bourna-Prediger, Steven. *For The Beauty Of The Earth: A Christian Vision for Creation Care*. 2nd ed., Baker Academic, 2010.

Richter, Sandra L. *Stewards of Eden: What Scripture Says about the Environment and Why It Matters*. IVP, 2020.

ON SIN AND ATONEMENT

McKnight, Scot. *A Community Called Atonement*. Abingdon, 2007.

Morris, Leon. *The Atonement: Its Meaning and Significance*. IVP, 1997.

ON THE TRINITY

Collins, Paul M. *The Trinity: A Guide for the Perplexed*. Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2008.

ON BAPTISM

Baptism: Three Views, edited by David F. Wright, IVP Academic, 2009.

Understanding Four Views on Baptism, edited by John H. Armstrong, Zondervan, 2007.

ON THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper: Five Views, edited by Gordon T. Smith, IVP Academic, 2008.

Wright, N. T. *The Meal Jesus Gave Us: Understanding Holy Communion*. Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

ON NONRESISTANCE & ON THE CHURCH AND THE STATE

The Power of the Lamb, edited by John E. Toews and Gordon Nickel, Kindred Press, 1986.

Ellul, Jacques. *The Subversion of Christianity*. Translated by Geoffrey W. Bromiley, Wipf & Stock, 1986.

ON MARRIAGE AND SINGLENESS

Parrott, Les and Leslie Parrott. *Relationships: How to Make Bad Relationships Better and Good Relationships Great*. Zondervan, 1998.

Webb, William J. *Slaves, Women & Homosexuals: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Cultural Analysis*. IVP Academic, 2009.

Hill, Wesley. *Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality*. Zondervan, 2016.

ON WORK, REST, SABBATH, AND MONEY

Buchanan, Mark. *The Rest of God: Restoring Your Soul by Restoring Sabbath*. Thomas Nelson, 2006.

Stevens, R. Paul. *Work Matters: Lessons from Scripture*. Eerdmans, 2012.

Stevens, R. Paul. *Money Matters: Faith, Life, and Wealth*. Eerdmans, 2021.

ON NEW CREATION

Wright, N. T. *Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church*. HarperOne, 2008.