

# Why Church?



A 6-Week Mini-Course with Patrick Franklin, PhD

## Who Should Join?

- Followers of Jesus desiring a deeper integration of Christian thought and living
- Those seeking a fresh understanding and experience of Christian life together in community

## Course Description

The New Testament exhorts Christ's followers: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

More forcefully, St. Cyprian (210-258 CE), a bishop in the early church, famously said "outside the church there is no salvation." Similarly, the Protestant reformer John Calvin wrote, "No one can have God as their Father without having the Church as their Mother." Though these statements might seem extreme to us today, they reflect an important biblical conviction:

**The church is central to God's plan and mission of redeeming and saving the world!** (Ephesians 1:9-10, 22-23)

But what is the church? Why does it exist? What things should it be doing and in what priority? What form(s) might it take? How should it be governed and led? How is the church related to God's mission? Should the church be focused primarily on believers or unbelievers? Should it focus on 'holiness' or 'inclusiveness'? 'Spirituality' or 'social justice'?

In this mini-course, we will explore how the *nature* of the church (what the church *IS*, according to Scripture) should shape, inform, and motivate our *expressions* of church. What the church *does* should flow authentically from what (and who) the church *is*. In light of this, we will discuss implications for holistic Christian life together in community, worship, ministry, spiritual formation, and mission.

*"The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant."*  
- Dallas Willard

## Dates

Wednesday evenings:  
March 6 - April 10  
7:30 - 8:45 p.m.

## Cost

\$249 for the course (6 sessions)  
\$199 early bird rate (by Feb. 21)  
\$100 for spouse / partner

## What's Included

- 6 live online Zoom sessions, 75 minutes each
- Accessible theological instruction geared toward practical application
- Combines teaching, interaction, and small group discussion
- An optional 15-minute Q&A time immediately following the session

# Patrick Franklin, PhD

✉ Email: [psfranklin@gmail.com](mailto:psfranklin@gmail.com)

**Theologian, Ethicist, Pastor, Church Planter, and Consultant**

**Associate Professor of Theology,**  
*Tyndale University, Toronto*

**PhD, Christian Theology,**  
*focused training in Ethics*

**Fellow** of the American Scientific Affiliation and former  
**President** of the Canadian Scientific and Christian  
Affiliation



“When I was board chair at The Scott Mission, we retained Patrick Franklin to take the board through a learning and exploration process to help us address controversial issues facing Christian organizations today, particularly in the area of human sexuality. Patrick brings a very rounded approach, blending a retreat-type framework of spiritual formation and reflection with his excellent grasp of historical, theological, sociological and scientific factors. Board members were very enthusiastic about the value of Patrick’s sessions.”

— Jonathan Wilson, Co-Founder and Managing Partner – Impact, Third Way Capital; Former Board Chair, The Scott Mission, Toronto, ON

“I consider Patrick to be a trusted advisor when it comes to matters of theology and ethics. I have sought out Patrick’s participation in several workshops and courses. Patrick’s tremendous depth of knowledge, excellent communication skills and pastoral approach are a wonderful, unique blend, which has garnered excellent results. I greatly value my connection with Patrick, especially considering that matters of theology and ethics are such an integral part of the discourse.”

— Garry Koop, Lead Pastor, Westview Baptist Church, Calgary, AB

“Patrick spent eight months working with our board helping us understand and work through complex decisions. His commitment to helping us learn and understand was a gift to us. I remain so grateful for Patrick’s process and his commitment to guiding and teaching and resourcing us so well.”

— Jamie Bay, Lead Pastor, Clarkson Community Church, Mississauga, ON

“Dr. Patrick Franklin was instrumental in developing and integrating medical ethics lectures for our University of Manitoba rural family medicine resident academic days in Steinbach, Manitoba. He had an open, non-judgemental and conversational manner that our family physician learners highly valued. Patrick used his expertise and experience to guide our physician learners to an understanding of how to integrate professional and personal ethics into their interactions with patients and families.”

— Dr. Karen Toews MD, CCFP, FCFP, Site Lead, Steinbach Family Medicine Stream; Department of Family Medicine, Max Rady College of Medicine; Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba