

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# Karl Barth and Neo-Orthodoxy

Course Lecturer: Lubbertus Oostendorp, ThD  
Former Professor of Bible and Theology at Reformed Bible College

## Course Description

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Through the years, the church has been greatly influenced by theologians. Augustine shaped the church's understanding of orthodoxy. Aquinas brought philosophy and theology together. Luther reclaimed salvation by faith alone; and Calvin reminded believers of God's sovereignty over all things. In a postmodern world, the church continues the process of knowing God in the wake of the teachings of Karl Barth. In this course, Dr. Lubbertus Oostendorp explores the impact of Barth's influence on Neo-Orthodoxy. Developed shortly after the Age of Enlightenment, Neo-Orthodoxy provided the springboard for today's theologians as believers seek to be both biblically true and culturally relevant.

## Course Objectives

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Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Define and explain Neo-Orthodoxy.
- Understand Karl Barth's teachings in *Church Dogmatics* and other notable works.
- Explain the controversy and objections to Barth and his works.
- Identify the theological, philosophical, and existential aspects of Neo-Orthodoxy.
- Explain the spiritual and intellectual influence of Barth on the church today.

## Course Lecturer

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*Lubbertus Oostendorp, ThD (1912-1992)*

### Education:

- Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, ThD
- Princeton Theological Seminary, ThM
- Calvin Theological Seminary, MDiv
- Calvin College, AB

### Teaching Career:

- Professor of Bible and Theology, Reformed Bible College, now Kuyper College (1964-1979)
- Visiting Professor, Reformed Theological College of Nigeria (1973)

- Instructor, Reformed Bible Institute (1943-1948)
- Lectured in Europe

**Other Career Highlights:**

- Pastor in the Christian Reformed Church (CRC)
- Pastor at seven different churches across Western Michigan—considered one of the finest preachers in the state of Michigan
- Chairman, Historical Committee of the CRC
- Church Order Revision Committee (1965)
- Secretary, Christian Reformed World Missions (1951)
- Contributor to various ministry efforts in the Netherlands during Hitler’s Nazi occupation

**Publications:**

- Numerous articles for the Christian Reformed Church magazine *Banner*
- Various denominational guides, tracts, and training materials on wide topics from the Eastern Orthodox Church to the reality of faith
- Numerous books, including *H.P. Scholte: Leader of the Succession of 1834 and Founder of Pella* and *The Church on Earth: A Guidebook on the History of the Church*

## Course Methods

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The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

## Course Assessment and Requirements

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Course requirements include:

- Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
- Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student. No numeric or letter grade will be awarded for this course.