Principles of Sanctification  
ST 526  
Reformed Theological Seminary – Charlotte  
Fall 2013

Professor:  
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Office Hours:  
Thursdays 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Required Texts:  

Course Structure and Objectives:  
In this course, we will examine the ongoing work of sanctification in the life of each believer. Attention will be given to developing a Scriptural understanding of what sanctification is, how it is worked by the Spirit, and how it is to be pursued by believers. At all points, the focus will be on cultivating sanctification in the lives of class members.

Course Requirements:  
**Assigned Reading:** All assigned reading must be completed prior to the final exam. There will be a question on the final exam asking how much of the assigned reading you have completed.

**Memorization:** At the beginning of the semester, a list of brief Scripture verses/passages will be distributed. From that list, students are to select 5 verses/passages and memorize those selections in the Bible translation of their choice. One component of the final exam will ask students to write out the verses/passages they have memorized.

**Exam:** There will be a final exam covering all material discussed in class. The exam will consist of short answer and essay questions and will account for 1/3 of the final grade.

**Essay:** Each student will submit a 6-8 page (double-spaced, excluding bibliography) essay, due by the term paper deadline on December 5. Each student may determine the topic of his essay, but each essay topic must be approved by the professor no later than November 21. Some suggested/potential essay topics are as follows:  
- What role does the Moral Law play in the sanctification of a Christian?  
- Outline three different views of sanctification. Which of these is the most Biblical view?
- What role does the conscience play in sanctification?
- What is the relationship between justification and sanctification?
- Choose a current “controversy” concerning sanctification. Describe the debate and outline a Biblical approach to the underlying issues.

Depending on the topic selected, more or less academic research will be expected. However, both footnote citation appropriate to the topic in question and a complete bibliography will be required. The essay will account for 1/3 of the final grade.

**Personal Assessment:** As John Owen writes, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.”

Attentiveness to our own particular besetting sins and intentionality in seeking to kill those sins by the power of the Spirit are critical in the Christian life; perhaps particularly for those who are called into Christian service. Taking the content of the course lectures and the assigned reading and applying all if it to your own heart, identify two specific sins or specific areas in your life that need particular mortification (some examples may be pridefulness, irritability, impatience, materialism, etc.). In a brief paper, identify these sins, their potential impact on your overall spiritual health, their impact on your future service, and ways that you can combat them in the future. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord; how will you seek after holiness in these areas? The paper will be 3-5 pages (double-spaced) and will be due on November 21, the last day of class.

The purpose of this assignment is not to scandalize, embarrass, or seek out salacious details; the purpose is to help students think seriously and personally about the presence of sin and the need for sanctification. To that end, when the papers are submitted, the professor will very quickly glance at each paper to ensure that the assignment has been completed and immediately will return the paper to the student. Students will receive full credit if a paper is submitted and no credit if a paper is not submitted. The paper will account for 1/3 of the final grade.

**Policy on Late Assignments:**
All late assignments will be assessed a 10 point deduction per day that the due date is exceeded.

**Policy on Class Absences:**
Attendance at lectures is mandatory. Unexcused absences will be penalized.

**Tentative Lecture Schedule:**

August 22 – Introduction

August 29 – Sanctification in the Old Testament I

September 5 – Sanctification in the Old Testament II

September 12 – Sanctification in the New Testament I

September 19 – Sanctification in the New Testament II
September 26 – Theological considerations in Sanctification I

October 3 – Theological considerations in Sanctification II

October 10 – Fall Break

October 17 – Theological considerations in Sanctification III

October 24 – Sanctification in the Westminster Standards

October 31 – Sanctification and the Law

November 7 – Sanctification and the Conscience

November 14 – Current Issues in Sanctification

November 21 – Current Issues in Sanctification; **Personal Assessment Due; Deadline for Essay approval**

November 28 – Thanksgiving

December 5 – **Essay Due**