Principles of Sanctification (ST526)
1 credit
Winter 2014

Reformed Theological Seminary - Washington

Instructor: Geoffrey M. Sackett
Email: gsackett@rts.edu

January 16-17
Thursday and Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm

Description

This course examines the doctrine of sanctification in reformed theological perspective. We will examine biblical themes and theological formulations with an eye toward practical application.

Some of the themes we will take up include: sanctification biblically defined; the place of the doctrine of sanctification in the doctrine of salvation; the nature of faith and repentance; the means of grace; the role of suffering in Christian growth; and sanctification as both a gift and a task.

Course Goals

- Grasp something of the biblical doctrine of sanctification
- Gain resources for cultivating growth in the Christian life
- Grow in appreciation for our triune God in renewing His people in the image of His Son
- Grasp something of the importance of the means of grace to sanctification

Required Texts


DeYoung, Kevin. *The Hole in our Holiness* (Crossway; August 10, 2012)


Assignments

1. Read, in order:
a. *Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification* in its entirety

b. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
   i. Book II, Chapter 8 (all sections)
   ii. Book III, Chapter 1 (all sections)
   iii. Book III, Chapter 2, Sections 1, 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 16-19
   iv. Book III, Chapter 3, Sections 1-11
   v. Book III, Chapter 6 (all sections)
   vi. Book III, Chapter 7 (all sections)
   vii. Book III, Chapter 8 (all sections)
   viii. Book III, Chapter 9 (all sections)
   ix. Book III, Chapter 10 (all sections)
   x. Book III, Chapter 11, Sections 1-4, 16-23
   xi. Book III, Chapter 19, Sections 1-9
   xii. Book III, Chapter 20, Sections 1-20, 34-52
   xiii. Book IV, Chapter 14 (all sections)
   xiv. Book IV, Chapter 15, Sections 1-14
   xv. Book IV, Chapter 17, Sections 1-11

c. *The Hole In Our Holiness* in its entirety

d. *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification* (pp 15-266)

2. *Christian Spirituality* Review (25%). Write a 5-6 page (do not exceed 6 pages) review of *Christian Spirituality*, comparing and contrasting the five views of sanctification. Describe the main points, distinctive emphases, and the respective strengths and weaknesses of each view. Include equal parts description and evaluation. Feel free to appreciate and criticize. Double-spaced, 12-point font.

3. Calvin Questions (25%). See last page.

4. *The Hole in Our Holiness* Paper (25%) consisting of two roughly equal parts: summary and personal reflection. Your task is to (a) provide a summary of the book (trace his argument; consider his main points and how he backs them up) (b) consider how the points DeYoung makes might be an aid to your personal growth in Christ. 3-4 pages (do not exceed 4 pages), double-spaced, 12-point font.

5. *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification* Reflections (25%). In 2-3 pages, reflect personally on how the message, themes, and ideas of this book might help you in your sanctification in the Lord. These reflections should be written in the first person.

Note: you may start these assignments before class begins.

**Evaluation**

- *Christian Spirituality* Review (25%)
- Calvin questions (25%)
- *The Hole In Our Holiness* Paper (25%)
- *The Gospel Mystery* Reflections (25%)
- Class participation (25%)

**Due Dates**

- Calvin questions – January 24
- *The Hole In Our Holiness* Paper – January 28

All assignments should be emailed as a MS Word (no PDFs) attachment to the instructor at gsackett@rts.edu.

**Attendance policy.** Attendance is expected. Please contact the professor to get permission for an excused absence.

**Policy on late assignments.** Late papers will be accepted according to the following guidelines (unless there is an emergency or an acceptable prior arrangement): one day late will result in a single grade reduction; two days late will result in a double grade reduction; three or more days late will receive a failing grade.

**Grading Scale**

The standard RTS grading scale will be used in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>94-96</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>91-93</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>88-90</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>86-87</td>
<td>2.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>1.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>75-77</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>72-74</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>(below 70)</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Calvin Questions

Your answers should respond both fully and concisely to the questions posed (each answer should be approximately 6-8 sentences (do not exceed one page per question) in length (double spaced, 12 pt font).

1. Calvin begins Book III Chapter 1 by asking, “How do we receive those benefits which the Father bestowed on his only-begotten Son—not for Christ’s own private use, but that he might enrich poor and needy men?”. How does he answer this question? In your answer, be sure to discuss Calvin’s view of the role of the Holy Spirit and the role of faith.

2. Calvin writes (in III.2.7): “Now we shall possess a right definition of faith if we call it a (a) firm and certain knowledge of (b) God’s benevolence toward us, (c) founded upon the truth of the freely given promise in Christ, both (d) revealed to our minds and sealed upon our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” Explain what he means and how he arrives at this definition. Your explanation must include discussion of (a) – (d).


4. What does Calvin mean when he asserts (in IV.17.4) that the “chief function” of the Lord’s Supper “is to seal and confirm that promise by which he [Christ] testifies that his flesh is food indeed and his blood is drink, which feed us unto eternal life”? Be sure to discuss Calvin’s view of the manner in which Christ is present in the supper.

---

**Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course: Principles of Sanctification</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professor: Geoff Sackett</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus: Washington DC</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date: 3/28/13</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Articulation (oral & written)**

Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.  

**Mini-Justification**

Students are required to write papers concerning the doctrine of sanctification.

---

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*
| **Scripture** | Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.) | Strong | The professor will do some exegesis of relevant passages and students are expected to interact with scripture in their assignments. |
| **Reformed Theology** | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | Students are expected to understand a reformed approach to sanctification vis-à-vis the Westminster Standards. |
| **Sanctification** | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification. | Strong | This is a main goal of the course. |
| **Desire for Worldview** | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Strong | God’s Word is the foundation for our knowledge of that which pleases the Lord and that which aids our growth in Christ. |
| **Winsomely Reformed** | Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.) | Strong | The professor will make every effort to present alternative views fairly and kindly. |
| **Preach** | Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Minimal | We will emphasize the Word of God (preached) as a means of grace. |
| **Worship** | Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service. | None |  |
| **Shepherd** | Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide. | Moderate | Attention will be given to seeing how scripture applies to Christian growth. |
| **Church/World** | Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues. | Minimal |  |