

Leadership, PT512
Reformed Theological Seminary, Houston
Fall 2017
Rev. Robert Arendale

Course Description

Students are introduced to the idea of Christian leadership. Specifically, we will consider the Biblical picture of a leader in the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will discuss such topics as his calling, his character, and his competence. Moreover, we will reflect on the dangers that leaders in ministry face. This course is applicable to all in positions of Christian leadership, but it will have a unique focus on those called to pastoral ministry.

Course Details

Location: RTS-H campus at Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Time: Tuesday nights, 6:30 – 9:30

Date: September 12, 2017 – November 14, 2017 (with the exception of 10/31)

Instructor: Rev. Robert S. Arendale

Contact: robert_arendale@hotmail.com

Course Goals

- A. To glorify our Triune God who creates, sustains, and redeems his people.
- B. To come to a better understanding of the high calling of leading the people of God in the church of God.

Course Philosophy

This course will consist of both lecture and discussion. In this course we will be diving into and engaging with the word of God. We will unpack what it means to be a shepherd of God's flock. The shepherd is called to feed, lead, nourish, protect, know, manage, and discipline his sheep. Furthermore, we will spend some time discussing the 'nuts and bolts' of ministry – the daily and weekly details, challenges, joys, and sorrows of being called to leadership in Christ's church.

Course Requirements

- A. Unless providentially hindered, all registered students are expected to attend all class lectures.
- B. Students are expected to read the following in full:

1. *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome* by Kent and Barbara Hughes (Crossway)
2. *A Portrait of Paul* by Rob Ventura and Jeremy Walker (Reformation Heritage Books)
3. *The Work of the Pastor* by William Still (Christian Focus)
4. *The Religious Life of Theological Students* by B.B. Warfield (P & R Publishing)
5. "The Minister's Self Watch" by Charles Spurgeon (lecture 1 from *Lectures to My Students*). This can be found on-line.
6. "The Usefulness of the Cross" by Richard B. Gaffin, Jr. This article can be found on-line.
7. *Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life* by John Calvin (Baker Books)
8. ***The Pastor's Book* by R. Kent Hughes (Crossway). Not required for class, but this is an excellent reference volume to have for your library.**

** Throughout the lectures I will be giving suggestions and recommendations for other helpful works on various aspects of ministry **

- C. Book Response. The student will write a 3 page response essay to one of the assigned books. This response is NOT to be a running commentary or summary of the contents; it is to be a substantive engagement with the ideas presented by the author.
- D. Final Exam. A final exam will be given on the last day of class. This exam will consist of short answer questions and is intended to test the student's overall grasp of the material.
- E. Essay. The student will write a 10 page essay answering the following question: "How does the Biblical picture of a Christian leader contrast with a worldly picture of a Christian leader?" We will discuss the details of the essay during the course.

Grading

10% class attendance and participation

20% reading

20% book response

20% final exam

30% essay

