

ST 526 Principles of Sanctification

January 2019

Michael Allen

Note that class meets on the evenings of hybrid week (January 14-18).

Course Description

This course examines the doctrine of sanctification in reformed theological perspective. We will examine biblical themes, theological formulation, and contemporary understanding with an eye toward pursuing holiness within the students' lives.

Course Objectives

1. To help the student gain an understanding of the biblical doctrine of sanctification.
2. To grow in appreciation of our gracious Father renewing His people in the image of His Son through the power of the Holy Spirit.
3. To grasp the importance of pursuing holiness for Christian discipleship and ministry.
4. To gain resources for cultivating growth in the Christian life.

The Instructor

Michael Allen, Ph.D.

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Feel free to contact me whenever needed (preferably via email or a conversation in person). If you have questions about class protocols and expectations or about the content of your readings, please email early and inquire. Better yet, come by my office and talk in person.

The Textbooks

1. Augustine, *The Confessions* (trans. Maria Boulding; New York: New City, 2001).
2. John Calvin, *A Little Book on the Christian Life* (Sanford, FL: Reformation Trust, 2017).
3. Thomas Watson, *The Lord's Prayer* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960).

4. James K. A. Smith, *You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit* (Grand Rapids: Brazos, 2016).

The Requirements

1. Read.

Reading must be thoughtful and engaged. Read the entirety of the assigned texts.

Theology is an activity done largely through the process of good reading. Read carefully. Read charitably. Read with others. Read with the expectation that you will learn from others, even when you disagree with their main point. Read even when a text is dense and difficult, for you will learn perseverance and fortitude here. Read that which seems trite and obvious, asking how others might object or criticize. Most importantly, read because God was willing to reveal himself in written words, and because we can best witness to God's grace with corresponding words. Read because words matter in God's economy of grace.

Report of all reading due by 11:00 a.m. on Canvas on Saturday, February 16.

2. Attend.

Please attend and participate actively. Bring your notes, books, and Bibles. Bring writing utensils. Don't try to take down everything that is said; rather, engage and participate actively in lectures, discussions, and exercises.

No screens (see explanation below on page 3).

3. Spiritual Discipline Exercise.

You are to pick a spiritual discipline that you have not yet privileged and to attend to it intentionally from our weekend of class through reading week. You are then to report on your commitment to this exercise and to post on its effect upon your life (and, as applicable, to that of your family, friends, and church community). Your report will be a single page post on Canvas that describes *what* you did, *why* you did it, *how* it fit into your daily or weekly rhythm, and *to what effect* it contributed to your spiritual growth this month.

Examples: praying the hours, practicing Sabbath, attending Sunday evening worship, leading family worship, practicing Christian hospitality, etc.

Due 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 16.

4. Reflective Paper.

You will write a concluding paper that offers personal reflections prompted by the reading of Augustine's *Confessions* and Thomas Watson's *The Lord's Prayer*. Two questions must be addressed: (1) learning from Augustine, what false hope or love do you need to specifically name and repent of and how has his book given you categories for describing it; and (2) learning from Watson, what particular prayer do you need to make your own and how has this study of the Lord's Prayer helped

you understand it? In making this reflective account autobiographically, root it in biblical and theological analysis. Your report can be between 1000 and 2000 words total.

Due Saturday, February 23 by 11:00 a.m.

Grading Structure

Grades will be assessed as follows:

Reading	1/3
Spiritual Discipline Exercise	1/3
Reflective Paper	1/3

The grading scale can be found in the Academic Catalog. As laid out in the catalog, a “B” is the work normally expected of a student. An “A” is given for someone who consistently outperforms expectations, and a “C” is given for persons who only minimally and occasionally meet expectations. Read the Academic Catalog to see what grades reflect.

Technology Policy (*Modified from Dr. Alan Jacobs of Baylor University*)

Computers, tablets, and smart-phones are not allowed in class. Think I’m over-reacting? Think you’re a master of multitasking? You are not. No, I really mean it. Notes taken by hand are almost always more useful than typed notes, because more thoughtful selectivity goes into them; plus there are multiple cognitive benefits to writing by hand. And people who use laptops in class see their grades decline — and even contribute to lowering the grades of *other people*.

Class Schedule

We will meet in the evenings of hybrid week (January 14-18). Note that times are shorter on Monday and Friday.

Monday, January 14 (6-8 p.m.)

Sanctification in Brief

Tuesday, January 15 (6-9 p.m.)

Habits and Means of Grace

Wednesday, January 16 (6-9 p.m.)

The Lord's Prayer

Thursday, January 17 (6-9 p.m.)

Word and Sacrament

Friday, January 18 (6-8 p.m.)

Sabbath and Fellowship

Other Due Dates

- (1) Reading Report: due by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 16.
- (2) Spiritual Discipline Exercise: due by 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 16.
- (3) Reflective Paper: due by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, February 23.



Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST 526

Professor: Allen

Campus: Orlando

Date: Winter 2019

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Strong➤ Moderate➤ Minimal➤ None	
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.	Moderate	Students will respond to the material in the lab in paper. written papers and exams as well as in an

			oral exam
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	This course stresses the biblical description of holiness.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Introduction to the Reformed approach to moral transformation and to discipleship.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Sustained focus upon pastoral character and the practices of good theological study for Christians and specifically for future leaders.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Stresses the systematic and ethical shape of Reformed theology, which is rooted in scriptural exegesis.
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	Focuses on the wider catholic heritage and also the Reformed distinctives that mark our theological approach.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	Gives a foundation for interpretation, exegesis, and application in preaching by focusing on how change happens.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Strong	Focuses significantly on the role of the means of grace in the Christian life, notably on prayer.
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	The formation of a lived understanding of discipleship is a major focus of readings, lectures, and exercises.

Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Moderate	Comparison of the Biblical, Reformed Theology with other systems. Significant focus upon spiritual implications of Reformed worldview.