

Principles of Sanctification (4ST526)

Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta
Winter 2019

Dr. Guy M. Richard
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Class Schedule

Monday, January 7, 9:00am – 4:30pm
Tuesday, January 8, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Class Description

This course emphasizes methodology, responsibility for personal growth in Christ, and a concern for the spiritual well being of others. It involves the study of Scripture for personal nurture and the exercise of certain disciplines necessary for spiritual growth.

Required Reading

John Onwuchekwa, *Prayer: How Praying Together Shapes the Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2018).

JC Ryle, *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots*.

Walter Marshall, *The Gospel Mystery of Sanctification: Growing in Holiness by Living in Union with Christ. A New Version Put Into Modern English by Bruce H. McRae* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2005). Amazon currently has this available in Kindle edition.

**It is expected that students will bring their Bibles with them to class.*

Student Evaluation

1. **Required Reading: 30% of final grade. Date Due: February 22, 2019.**
Students will report on the percentage of reading they have completed over the course of the semester. If the student does not report the percentage of the reading they have completed, it will be assumed that they have not completed any of it.
2. **Reflection Paper: 30% of final grade. Date Due: February 22, 2019.**
Students will be expected to complete a reflection paper on one of the following texts: (1) *Holiness* by JC Ryle, or (2) *The Gospel Mystery* by Walter Marshall. This paper should be no more than 5 pages double-spaced (12-pt font Time New Roman or equivalent) and no less than 4 pages. It should interact with the text in question. Students should describe relevant main points, distinctive emphases, and outline (and defend or criticize) perceived strengths and weaknesses. I am not interested in mere regurgitation of the main points. I am interested in seeing you interact with the text in question, citing strengths and weaknesses along with your corresponding reasons for your evaluation.

3. **Sermon Analyses: 40% of final grade. Date Due: February 22, 2019.**

Students will be expected to listen to 3 sermons and then to evaluate them in no more than 1 page single-spaced for each sermon. Evaluations should at least include answers to the following questions:

- (1) How does the sermon treat sanctification?
- (2) Does it link sanctification with the atonement? with justification? and/or with union with Christ? Does it do so accurately and effectively?
- (3) Does it preach Christ?
- (4) Does the sermon balance the indicative (teaching/didactic) with the imperative (exhortation/application)? If so, how? If not, what could be done better?
- (5) Does the sermon seek to reach the affections or is it only communicating information? If the former, how does it do so? If the latter, what could be done to better reach the affections of the hearer?

All work is due by Friday, February 22nd at 5pm. Everything must be submitted by email to the professor at the above email address by the deadline. Late submissions will be accepted but will merit a deduction of 3 percentage points per day off of what would otherwise be the student's grade (i.e., if student earned a 95 on given assignment [out of total of 100 points] and was 2 days late, the student's final grade would be an 89 [i.e., 95 – 6 points = 89]). The 3 percentage-point penalty will begin at 5:01pm on February 22nd (according to the date on the email). This penalty will be waived only if a student is providentially hindered from completing the assignments on time (i.e., death, hospitalization, etc.) and/or has made prior arrangements with the professor.

Proposed Lecture Schedule

1. Introduction: Why should we study sanctification? Why is it important?
2. What is sanctification?
3. Sanctification and the *ordo salutis*.
4. Spiritual Disciplines and Habits.
5. The Means of Grace.
6. Preaching.
7. Sacraments.
8. Prayer.
9. Fellowship?
10. Role of suffering.

Select Texts for Additional Reading on your own

Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace: God's Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1994).

Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2007).

John Calvin, *Institutes*, see especially 3.1-2, 6-9, and 11-14; and 4.14.1-12 and 4.17.1-11; etc.

- Edmund P. Clowney, *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003).
- Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Christian Life: A Doctrinal Introduction* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1989).
- Sinclair B. Ferguson, *Devoted to God: Blueprints for Sanctification* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2016).
- R. Kent Hughes, *Disciplines of a Godly Man* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2006 reprint).
- R. Kent Hughes, *Set Apart: Calling a Worldly Church to a Godly Life* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003).
- David Mathis, *Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016).
- JP Moreland, *Love Your God with all Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997).
- John Murray, "Definitive Sanctification," *Calvin Theological Journal* 2 (April 1967), 5-21.
- John Murray, *Redemption—Accomplished and Applied* (London: Banner of Truth, 1961 reprint).
- John Owen, *Communion with God*, ed. R.J.K. Law (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1991).
- J.I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1990).
- J.I. Packer, *Rediscovering Holiness* (Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1992).
- Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991).

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: 04ST526 Sanctification
 Professor: Dr. Guy M. Richard
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: January 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 be required to write papers and evaluate preached sermons
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	Scripture will be the basis for this course
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The Westminster Standards will be the focus for this course
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	This course is on sanctification
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	This course will seek to address worldview issues
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	This course will be taught with an emphasis on being winsome
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	This course will seek to connect with preaching via assignments
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	This course will only deal with Issues of worship tangentially
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	This course will seek to prepare students to shepherd people in the area of sanctification/growth
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	This course will only interact with these ideas tangentially