

Personal Sanctification (04PT5375)

Reformed Theological Seminary Atlanta
Fall 2019

Dr. Guy M. Richard

g-richard@rts.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4pm – 6pm

Class Schedule

Tuesdays, 11:35am – 12:35pm

Class Description

This course explores the theology and methodology of personal growth in Christ. It will focus on what the Bible says about sanctification and the means of grace. Special attention will be given to the practice of prayer (as a means of grace) with the goal that students will not simply learn about it in a clinically detached way but will actually engage in it each week in class.

Required Reading

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

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

Guy M. Richard, *What Is Faith?* (Philipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2012).

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: 40% of final grade. Date Due: December 3, 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. **Class attendance and participation: 30% of final grade.**

Because of the nature of the class, students will be expected to attend class and to participate in the discussion/activity.

3. **Reflection Paper: 30% of final grade. Date Due: December 10, 2019.**

Students will be expected to complete one (1) reflection paper on any one of the main texts for the class. This paper should be no more and no less than 5 pages double-spaced (12-pt font Time New Roman or equivalent). 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 the corresponding reasons for your evaluation.

All work is due by Tuesday, December 10 by 11:59pm. Everything must be submitted by email to the professor 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 12:00am on December 11th (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. Syllabus and introductory information.
2. Course introduction: Why is sanctification important?
3. What is sanctification?
4. Sanctification and the *ordo salutis*.
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: 04PT5375
 Professor: Guy M. Richard
 Campus: Atlanta
 Date: Fall 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> | | 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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm. | Moderate | Students will have to write a reflection paper and participate in classroom discussions. |
| 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 the course. |
| Reformed Theology | Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards. | Strong | Westminster standards will be the basis for the course. |
| Sanctification | Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification. | Strong | Course is dealing with sanctification. |
| Desire for Worldview | Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. | Moderate | Course will touch on 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 | Course will be taught with an emphasis on being winsome. |
| Pastoral Ministry | Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns. | Moderate | Course will prepare students for pastoral ministry by focusing on personal sanctification. |