

09PT6526R (DE)**Image of God and Ministry****Reformed Theological Seminary in New York City****Spring 2021****Dr. Jay Harvey****Course Description**

This is a REMOTE Live course on the implications of the doctrine of the image of God for the practice of ministry in the local church, in its prophetic, priestly, and kingly dimensions. From a Biblical and Confessional perspective, we will engage critically historical instances of the Church's neglect or twisting of the doctrine of the image of God. We will consider how a robust articulation of the image of God remains vital to addressing contemporary challenges to Christian ministry, both theologically and pastorally.

Course Details

Via Zoom

5:30PM-7:30PM

Tuesdays 2 February to 4 May (13 classes with one week off)

Course Philosophy

The purpose of this course is to bring forward the riches of the Reformed doctrine of the image of God for all that it can contribute to ministry in our contemporary setting. The assumption of the course is that Reformed Covenant Theology in dialogue with the Holy Catholic Church has more than critique to bring to the contemporary church and world; it has a positive vision for life and ministry that makes better sense of lived experience than the world's alternatives.

Course Plan

Engagement with Scripture and literature will follow a movement from Biblical, to Systematic, to Pastoral Theology. These disciplines are, of course, always interrelated. But, we will move from scripture, to theology, to practice. The exegetical, theological, and historical foundations for the doctrine of the image of God will be covered in the lectures. The professor recommends Anthony Hoekema's text, [Created in God's Image](#), to students who want a thorough but accessible book on the doctrine.

This course is intended to be highly participatory. Each class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. The primary intent of the lecture is to frame the discussion. Attendance and participation are vital for your personal growth in the course and your academic success. We will discuss the authors, themes and works with a view to our own relationship with Christ, understanding the culture, and the strengthening of worship, witness, and discipleship in our churches. Dr. Ligon Duncan will join the discussion in our final class.

Grading

05% Reading

30% Discussion Forums

30% Participation

35% Final Paper—6-8 page final paper on topic and outline approved by the professor in advance.

Course Readings

For the seminar portion of the class, the professor will introduce the readings. There will be close readings and discussions of important passages.

Herman Bavinck, [Christian Worldview](#) (For those without adequate background in philosophy, this text can be challenging. The professor will introduce the chapters and discuss important passages in class. Students are also expected to read the text in full.)

Herman Bavinck, "Spiritual Pathologies," in [Reformed Ethics](#).

Herman Bavinck, "Christian Principles and Social Relationships," "On Inequality," and "Ethics and Politics" in [Essays on Religion, Science and Society](#) (free online at the RTS library website)

Anthony Bradley, ed., [Why Black Lives Matter: African American Thriving for the 21st Century](#) (any four chapters, one of which must be by a female contributor)

Ben Gladd, [From Adam and Israel to the Church: A Biblical Theology of the People of God](#) (available free at the RTS Library website)

Irwyn Ince, [The Beautiful Community: Unity Diversity and the Church at Its Best](#) (only Part II is required)

Timothy Paul Jones, "[Prophets, Priests, and Kings Today? Theological and Practical Problems with the use of Munus Triplex as a Leadership Typology](#)," in *Perichoresis* Volume 16. Issue 3 (2018): 63–86.

Willie Jennings, "Zurara's Tears" and "Equiano's Words," in [The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race](#) (also available free through [Proquest](#) at the RTS Library website)

Gray Sutanto, "Bavinck's Christian Worldview: Context, Classical Contours and Significance," in [Reformed Faith and Practice](#).

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Class Schedule

February 2, 2021

First Adam as Prophet, Priest, King
Gladd, *From Adam and Israel*, chs. 1-4
WCF I-VII

February 9, 2021

Last Adam as Prophet, Priest, King
Gladd, *From Adam and Israel*, chs. 5-7
WCF VIII

February 16, 2021

Church as Body of Christ and Prophet, Priest, King
Gladd, *From Adam and Israel*, chs. 8-12
WCF XXI-XXVI

February 23, 2021

Bavinck's Theology of the Image of God

Sutanto, "Bavinck's Christian Worldview: Context, Classical Contours and Significance"

Bavinck, *Christian Worldview*

March 2, 2021

Use (and sometimes abuse) of the threefold office (Prophet, Priest, and King) in Theology, Ministry, and Leadership

Jones, "Prophets, Priests, and Kings Today? Theological and Practical Problems with the use of Munus Triplex as a Leadership Typology"

March 9, 2021

Bavinck's "Spiritual Pathologies" and their Implications for Ministry

Bavinck, "Spiritual Pathologies," in *Reformed Ethics*.

March 16, 2021

Contemporary Context of Image of God and Ministry—A Summary of Personal Identity, Justice, Race, Vocation

March 23, 2021

Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Worship and the Image of God, Part I

Ince, *The Beautiful Community*, chs. 5-7

WCF XXI

April 6, 2021

Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Worship and the Image of God, Part II

Ince, *The Beautiful Community*, chs. 8-10

April 13, 2021

Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Witness and the Image of God, Part I

Bradley, ed., *Why Black Lives Matter: African American Thriving for the 21st Century*

WCF XVI

April 20, 2021

Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Witness and the Image of God, Part II

Bavinck, "Christian Principles and Social Relationships," "On Inequality," and "Ethics and Politics"

April 27, 2021

Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Discipleship and the Image of God, Part I

Jennings, "Zurara's Tears"

WCF XIII

May 4, 2021*

Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Discipleship and the Image of God, Part II

Jennings, "Equiano's Words"

*Dr. Ligon Duncan will join us for this final class to discuss Equiano, Jennings' Christian Imagination, and how the church can offer a constructive witness in today's world.

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: PT6526 (DE)

Professor: Dr. Harvey

Campus: New York City

Date: February 2, 2021 to May 4, 2021

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<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>		<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. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Strong	Students will be able to articulate the doctrine of the image of God with an emphasis on the practice of ministry. Students will write a 6-8 page paper.
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	Students will develop a Biblical theology of the image of God.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The course engages significant portions of the Westminster Standards and the syllabus includes classic Reformed texts.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	The class is focused on the doctrine of the image of God and on the practice of ministry.
Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God. Includes ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	A major focus of the course will be on engaging non-Christian views of the human person through the lens of the image of God.
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	Rather than resting content with critique, the course will intentionally foster a constructive posture toward ministry in today's world.
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-Christians.	Strong	The course has implications for how ministry is structured and practiced. The course aims to understand the cultural complexity of pastoral ministry.