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)


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)


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*

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*
WCF XVI

April 20, 2021
*Ministry in the Contemporary Context: Witness and the Image of God, Part II*

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

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Students will develop a Biblical theology of the image of God.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course engages significant portions of the Westminster Standards and the syllabus includes classic Reformed texts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>The class is focused on the doctrine of the image of God and on the practice of ministry.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Rather than resting content with critique, the course will intentionally foster a constructive posture toward ministry in today’s world.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pastoral Ministry</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>The course has implications for how ministry is structured and practiced. The course aims to understand the cultural complexity of pastoral ministry.</td>
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