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REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
GLOBAL

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PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION  
DR. R. MICHAEL ALLEN

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# Course Overview

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## *Course Description:*

00PT5375 Personal Sanctification, 1 hour  
Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:  
Dr. R. Michael Allen

This course emphasizes methodology and responsibility for personal growth in Christ. This involves the study of Scripture for personal nurture and the exercise of certain disciplines necessary for spiritual growth.

## *Course Objectives:*

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

## *Required Textbooks:*

Augustine. *The Confessions*. Maria Bouling trans. New York, NY: New York City Press, 2017.

Calvin, John. *A Little Book on the Christian Life*. Sanford, FL: Reformation Trust, 2017.

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

Watson, Thomas. *The Lord's Prayer*. Edinburgh, SCT: Banner of Truth Trust, 1960.

[These books may also be available in ebook format through various retailers]

### *Online Student Handbook:*

The Online Student Handbook (can be [downloaded here](#)) has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual.

### *Summary of Requirements:*

1. Listen to all recorded [Lectures](#).
2. Complete all [Readings](#).
3. Participate in [Forum Discussions](#) (with other students and the professor).
4. Submit Spiritual Discipline Exercise
5. Submit [Course Paper](#)
6. Take [Final Exam](#).
7. Submit [Reading Report](#) (will be on final exam).
8. Submit [Mentor Report/Course Application Paper](#).

# Meet the Professor

## *Lecturing Professor and Professor of Record:*



Dr. Mike Allen joined the faculty of RTS-Orlando in 2015 and serves as John Dyer Trimble Professor of Systematic Theology and Academic Dean of the Orlando campus. He teaches core courses related to systematic theology and historical theology.

Dr. Allen's research interests range widely over the various topics of Christian doctrine and eras of church history. He is eager to guide students to grow in their ability to retrieve theological riches from the past for the sake of renewing contemporary reflection, worship, and witness. In this vein, he is committed to Reformed catholicity as a confession and a posture for doing theology and approaching ministry today. He is presently writing a theological commentary on Ephesians. With Dr. Scott Swain, he serves as general editor of the T & T Clark International Theological Commentary series and the New Studies in Dogmatics series for Zondervan Academic.

He grew up in both the South and then in South Florida. He previously taught at Knox Theological Seminary for five years, where he held the D. James Kennedy Chair of Systematic Theology and also served as Dean of the Faculty. He is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church in America and regularly preaches throughout central Florida.

Dr. Allen and his wife, Emily, have two sons, Jackson and Will. He enjoys playing and watching basketball, running, and reading.

## *Publications by Dr. Allen:*

- (ed. with Scott Swain), *The Oxford Handbook of Reformed Theology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).
- *Grounded in Heaven: Recentering Christian Hope and Life in God* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018).
- *Sanctification* (New Studies in Dogmatics; Grand Rapids: Zondervan Academic, 2017).
- (ed. with Scott R. Swain), *Christian Dogmatics: Reformed Theology for the Church Catholic* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2016).
- (ed. with Jonathan Linebaugh), *Reformation Readings of Paul: Explorations in History and Exegesis* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015).
- (with Scott R. Swain), *Reformed Catholicity: The Promise of Retrieval in Theology and Biblical Interpretation* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015).
- *Justification and the Gospel: Understanding the Contexts and Controversies* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2013).
- *Karl Barth's Church Dogmatics: An Introduction and Reader* (London: T & T Clark, 2012).
- (ed.), *Theological Commentary: Evangelical Perspectives* (London: T & T Clark, 2011).
- *Reformed Theology* (Doing Theology; London: T & T Clark, 2010).
- *The Christ's Faith: A Dogmatic Account* (T & T Clark Studies in Systematic Theology 2; London: T & T Clark, 2009).

# Grades

## *Forum Discussion (15%):*

The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:

1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
  - A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
  - B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student's answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question, therefore, requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts = 10 total posts).
  - C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)

A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

## *Examination (Final 20%):*

There is one exam in this course, and it is worth 20% of your final grade. It consists of ten questions covering the lectures and the readings from "You Are What You Love."

The exam for this course is to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exam. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you, will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.

## *Spiritual Discipline Exercise (20%):*

You are to pick a spiritual discipline that you have not practiced and to attend to it intentionally for six weeks. 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 these six weeks.

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

### *Reflective Paper (20%):*

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.

### *Reading Report (20%):*

Read all assigned textbooks. These readings constitute 20% of the course grade. You will input the percentage completed of your reading in the "Reading Report" in the End of Course Module.

### *Mentor Report OR Course Application Paper (5%):*

If you are enrolled in an **RTS Global** degree or certificate program, you are required to submit a mentor report at the end of the course. Every portion of the form (goals, summaries, assessments, and signatures) should be filled out completely by both the student and the mentor to receive full credit. You can download the Mentor Report form in your Canvas classroom.

If you are receiving your degree through another **RTS campus** (Orlando, Jackson, Charlotte, et. al.) or special student (e.g. from another seminary), you are asked to write a 200-word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life. Course Application Papers (CAP) that fall well-short of 200 words will receive a grade deduction.

### *Assignments:*

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

### *Contact Information:*

Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education  
2101 Carmel Road  
Charlotte, NC 28226  
(704) 900-1257  
1-855-854-6920  
FAX: (704) 366-9295  
E-mail: [dess@rts.edu](mailto:dess@rts.edu)  
Web site: [www.rts.edu/distance](http://www.rts.edu/distance)



# Lessons

## Lesson One

Sanctification in Brief

## Lesson Two

Spiritual Habits

## Lesson Three

Means of Grace

## Lesson Four

The Lord's Prayer

## Lesson Five

The Importance of the Sacraments

## Lesson Six

Sabbath

**Course Objectives Related to Student Learning Outcomes**

Course: Personal Sanctification

Professor: Dr. R. Michael Allen

<b>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</b>		<b>Rubric</b>	<b>Mini-Justification</b>
<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"> <li>➤ Strong</li> <li>➤ Moderate</li> <li>➤ Minimal</li> <li>➤ None</li> </ul>	
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	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 a final paper.
<b>Scripture</b>	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.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	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.
<b>Sanctification</b>	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.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	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.
<b>Winsomely Reformed/ Evangelistic</b>	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	The Gospel of Jesus Christ, rightly Focuses on the wider catholic heritage and also the Reformed distinctives that mark our theological approach.
<b>Preach</b>	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.
<b>Worship</b>	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.
<b>Shepherd</b>	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.
<b>Church/World</b>	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.