Principles of Sanctification (4ST526)
Winter 2011
Reformed Theological Seminary

Dr. Guy M. Richard
First Presbyterian Church
10885 O’Neal Road
Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 863-2664
grichard@fpcgulfport.org

Class Schedule
Tuesday, January 18, 8:30am – 4:00pm
Wednesday, January 19, 8:30am – 4:00pm

Class Description
This course offers a “consideration of methodology and responsibility for personal
growth in Christ as well as 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 Texts
Donald L. Alexander, ed., Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification (Downers
Grove, IL: IVP, 1989).

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).

J.I. Packer, A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life (Wheaton, IL:

Westminster Standards (with Scripture proofs): WCF §11, 13, 27-9;
WLC 70-73, 75-8, 161-77;
WSC 33, 35-6, 91-7.

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

Recommended Additional Reading
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).
Student Evaluation

1. **Required Reading:** 20% of final grade.

2. **Reflection Papers:** 40% of final grade. Students will be expected to complete one written paper on each of 2 required reading texts: (1) *Christian Spirituality* and (2) *A Quest for Godliness*. These papers should be 5 pages double-spaced (12-pt font Time New Roman or equivalent) and 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. 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 reach the affections or is it communicating information only? If so, how? If not, what could be done better?

All work is due by Friday, February 25th at 5pm. Everything must be submitted as an MS-Word attachment by email to the instructor at the above email address by the deadline. Late submissions will be accepted but will merit a deduction of 5 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 85 [i.e., 95 – 10 points = 85]). This penalty will be waived only if a student is providentially hindered from completing the assignments on time (i.e., death, hospitalization, etc.).

Proposed Lecture Schedule
1. Introduction: Why should we study sanctification?

2. What is sanctification?

3. Sanctification and the ordo salutis.


5. Preaching.


7. Prayer.

8. Fellowship?

9. Role of suffering.