COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the student to exegetical, theological, historical and practical aspects of the ministry. The student will be required to analyze his call to ministry, his habits of piety, and make a judgment about his fitness for ministry. The course is designed to enable the student to use the practice of ministry as the integrating concept for all of his theological studies (A.C.).

REALITY:

BIBLICAL PASTORING is a much used and, perhaps, much misunderstood concept. Too often the practice of ministry (form/style) overshadows the essence of being a pastor to God’s people.

This class on BIBLICAL PASTORING seeks to uncover the integration of encouraging/exhorting God’s people amidst our frenetic life-style. As always, a genuinely Biblical theology must be at the heart of any definitions of pastoring. Also, that same Reformed theology determines the essence of encouragement or exhortation which is at the core of ministry.

To minister to the Lord’s people, we must ask first what He would want these people to be in the future, and how we are to be His agents in establishing, in the church, the environment in which He will grow His people. What are people REALLY like? What are the Biblical principles which they MUST face to be growing spiritually? How can we be genuinely Biblical and reflective about our role in God’s work?

OBJECTIVES (A.C.):

1. The student will be able to show how the Bible defines the role of the minister and to analyze how well that description matches his practice.

2. The student will be able to relate various areas of theology to the practice of ministry.

3. The student will be able to evaluate practical elements in the current practice of ministry and explain how they are or are not based on Biblical reflection.
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4. The student will be able to explain the role of piety in the ministry and describe how he will endeavor to grow in piety.

TEXT BOOKS:


GRADING:

1. Write a 5-8 page critique of each of the books listed above. Each review will constitute 15% of the final grade. Due dates:
   a. Baxter…..
   b. Bridges…..
   c. Clowney…..

2. Make a 15 minute presentation (toward the end of the semester) on a topic to be approved by the instructor, comparing/contrasting contemporary CEO ministry patterns with Biblical patterns. This will comprise 25%.

3. A final, take-home exam will be administered at the end of the semester. It will constitute 25% of the final grade.

4. After each class, a one page reaction paper will be submitted… 5%.

ENCOURAGEMENTS:

1. Attend class.

2. Plan your work through the semester.

3. Engage in class discussions.