

PSY634 Psychology in Relation Theology III

Reformed Theological Seminary - Orlando

Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., February 7 – March 20, 1 credit hour

Spring Semester, 2009

Instructors: Scott Coupland, Ph.D. & Josh Leim, M.Div., M.A.

Office Hours: By appointment

Telephone: (407) 366-9493, ext. 238 (Coupland)

E-mail: scoupland@rts.edu & jleim@rts.edu

PURPOSE

“Life in Christ is by nature communal” J. Knox Chamblin

This course is designed to help students integrate their thinking regarding the nature of Christian community. Students will address the unique challenges and possibilities of counseling professionals in a church setting. In doing so, they will be equipped to engage the church with wise and rich involvement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Gain an understanding of nature of biblical community.
2. To prepare students for the challenge of leaving the safety of the RTS counseling community, and re-entering/engaging community in the future.
3. To understand the possibilities of community, what it can look like, etc.
4. Understand the challenges, and possible dangers, in churches.
5. Develop ways of living in, coping with, and prophetically challenging the church and pastors as counselors.
6. To challenge students to engage each other professionally and respectfully in a roundtable dialogue format.

COURSE FORMAT

Roundtable dialogue.

SCHEDULE and REQUIRED READINGS

A variety of readings on subjects related to the course. The readings are listed below, and are available at the library reserve shelf. The students are encouraged to add the texts and articles to their personal libraries, but are not required to for this course.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Feb. 7	Part 1: Life after the MAC program: Opportunities and challenges. Part 2: What is Christian community?	Read chapters 1 and 2 <i>Counseling and Community</i> by Rod Wilson; chapter 6 of <i>Reclaiming God’s Original Intent for the Church</i> by W.

- Roberts and G. Marshall, and chapter 5 of *How People Change* by T. Lane and P. Tripp.
- Feb. 14 How to present a biblical model of counseling to the Church. Read Dr. Chuck DeGroat's article, and chapters 1 and 5 of *Foundation for Soul Care* by Eric Johnson.
- Feb. 21 Counseling pastors, their spouses, and persons in full-time ministry. Read the Introduction and chapters 1 and 4 of *Leading with a Limp* by Dan Allender.
- Feb. 28 Professional counseling, pastoral counseling, discipleship, and spiritual formation: similarities and differences. Read chapters 1 and 2 of *The Care of Souls* by David Benner, and chapter 4 of *Eat this Book* by Eugene Peterson.
- Mar. 6 Spiritual abuse in the church. Read three chapters of your choice from *The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse* by D. Johnson and J. VanVonderen,
- Mar. 13 Church discipline and counseling. Read chapters 10, 11, and 12 of *Bold Love* by Dan Allender, and Read chapter 6 of *Counseling and Community* by Rod Wilson.
- Mar. 20 Engaging the church as a counselor. Read chapter 5 of *Counseling and Community* by Rod Wilson, and chapters 1-3 of *The Safest Place on Earth* by Larry Crabb.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete required reading.
- 2 Attendance and participation in roundtable dialogue. The course format is dialogue-based, and students are to be prepared to discuss the course topic of the day in a way that reflects thoughtful interaction with the readings (not just personal opinion) and their professional experience through their RTS clinical internship. Showing up late and/or missing class will result in significant deductions in the student's grade.
3. Weekly "Roundtable Questions":
 - A. Working on his/her own, the student must generate **5** questions based on the week's readings. The questions will be typed and turned in at the beginning of each class beginning with the first class on February 7. Students must include their name and the date on each question. Select questions will be used for the roundtable dialogue. (*Example: Johnson and VanVonderen raise difficult questions regarding spiritual abuse on page 72. But how would I counsel my clients to deal with their spiritually abusive pastor if I was receiving referrals from him, and he was supportive of my counseling practice?*)
 - B. The questions will be used by the professors to evaluate the student's thoughtful interaction with the readings. Questions turned in later than the beginning of each class will result in a one letter grade deduction on the assignment, and subsequent deductions will occur every day until the questions are turned in.
4. Final Exam: The final exam questions will be a take-home due May 16, 2008 by 5:00 p.m. in Dr. Coupland's mailbox. Question for the exam will be taken from a list of possible questions (below). Five questions will be selected by the professors, and answers to each of questions must be no longer than two pages. Use APA format.

1. Discuss the use of Frame’s *normative-situational-existential* construct as it relates to church discipline. Be sure to include the specific role of each one.
2. Delineate between pastoral counseling, clinical counseling, discipleship, and spiritual formation. Briefly describe the unique roles of each in the church.
3. Integrating Scripture, the readings, and your personal thoughts, reflect on the role of biblical *humility* and *wisdom* as you prepare to leave the program and interact with those who have not been exposed to the counseling program or have worked deeply on their own issues.
4. Elaborate on three main ideas that you viewed as significant and helpful from the class dialogue regarding counseling pastors and their spouses and/or families.
5. The counselor, whether he/she counsels in the church or outside of it, is ultimately a *servant* of Christ and the church. Discuss the three most significant concepts you have gained from class as it relates to a counselor’s interaction with the church.
6. Discuss wise ways to engage a narcissistic pastor. Use relevant assigned readings in your answer.
7. Discuss stories, metaphors, examples, or counsel in Scripture on how one ought to interact with unwilling, immature, or resistant people with wisdom, patience, long-suffering, and humility.
8. Discuss strengths and drawbacks between counseling in a clinical setting versus counseling in a church setting.
9. Evaluate Crabb’s basic thesis about making the church “the safest place on earth.” Discuss three strengths and three weaknesses in his position.
10. What is the purpose of church discipline? Describe one example of church discipline being administered in the New Testament. Discuss two ways in which church discipline can be effective, and two ways in which it can be detrimental.
11. What is biblical community? Discuss three aspects of biblical community from your readings and/or Scripture. Discuss three impediments to biblical community.
12. What is the role of church community in the role of soul healing?
13. If a pastor asked you how you use Scripture in counseling, how would you respond?

GRADING SCALE

Listed below are the assignments that will determine your final course grade.

Attendance and Participation	40 points (deductions for late arrival to class)
Roundtable Questions	30 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>30 points</u>
Total	100 points

A = 97-100 points	B- = 86-87 points	D+ = 75-77 points
A- = 94-96 points	C+ = 83-85 points	D = 72-74 points
B+ = 91-93 points	C = 80-82 points	D- = 70-71 points
B = 88-90 points	C- = 78-79 points	F = 69 points and below

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allender, D. *Leading with a Limp*
Allender, D. & Longman, T. *Bold Love*
Anderson, K. & Reese, R. *Spiritual mentoring*
Arnold, E. *Why we live in community*
Baker, J. & Gay, D. *Alternative worship: Resources from and for the emerging church*
Benner, D. *Sacred companions: The gift of spiritual friendship and direction*
Benner, D. *The care of souls: Revisioning Christian nurture and counsel*
Bonhoeffer, D. *Life together: The classic exploration of faith in community*
Brueggemann, W. *Cadences of home: Preaching among exiles*
Brueggemann, W. *The prophetic imagination*
Chamblin, K. *Paul and the self*
Cloud, H. & Townsend, J. *Boundaries*
Cloud, H. *Safe people*
Crabb, L. *Connecting*
Crabb, L. *The safest place on earth*
Crabb, L. *SoulTalk*
Dawn, M. *Truly the community: Romans 12 and how to be the church*
Gorman, J. *Community that is Christian: A handbook on small groups*
Grenz, S. *The social God and the relational self*
Grenz, S. *Theology for the community of God*
Hawkins, T. *Cultivating Christian community*
Kallam, J. *Risking church: Creating a place where your heart feels at home*
Kurtz, E. & Ketcham, K. *The spirituality of imperfection: Storytelling and the search for meaning*
Langberg, D. *Counsel for pastors' wives*
Longnecker, R. *Patterns of discipleship in the New Testament*
Mason, M. *The practice of the presence of people*
McFadyen, A. I. *The call to personhood: A Christian theory of the individual in social relationships*
Moon, G. & Benner, D. *Spiritual direction and the care of souls*
Myers, J. R. *The search to belong: Rethinking intimacy, community, and small groups*
Nouwen, H. J. M. *Can you drink the cup?*
Peterson, E. *Christ plays in a thousand places*
Rediger, G. *Clergy killers: Guidance for pastors and congregations under attack*
Roberts, W. & Marshall, G. *Reclaiming God's original intent for the church*
Scazzero, P. *The Emotionally Healthy Church*
Vanier, J. *Community and growth*
VanVonderen, J. & Johnson, D. *The subtle power of spiritual abuse*
Webster, D. D. *Soulcraft: How God shapes us through relationships*
Wilson, R. *Counseling and community: Using church relationships to reinforce counseling*
Wright, N. T. *Following Jesus: Biblical reflections on discipleship*
Yancey, P. *Soul survivor: How my faith survived the church*

Volf, M. *Exclusion and embrace: A theological exploration of identity, otherness, and reconciliation*