

# ***Principles of Sanctification***

**RTS 6ST526/01**

Stephen M. Clark PhD.

## **I. CLASS TIMES AND LOCATION**

Class will be held at the Youth House, McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Rd., McLean, VA. Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, February 1<sup>st</sup> to March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007.

## **II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course will introduce students to the theological issues present in the Doctrine of Sanctification and explore their relevance for the progress of grace in the life of the Christian. Attention will be paid to the practical implications of the “means of grace” as they relate to the Christian community in the world. The class will be conducted in such a way as to model the Christian life in the context of a community of Christ.

## **III. COURSE TEXTS**

Bryan Chapell, *Holiness by Grace*, Crossway Books, 2000

Dietrich Bonhoffer, *Life Together*, Harper, 1954

Timothy S. Lane, Paul D. Tripp, *How People Change*, Punch

## **IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. All required readings must be accomplished, preferably by the week listed. You must certify that these have been done. You will be graded on class participation in light of your interaction with the reading.  
20% of grade.
2. Read Timothy S. Lane, Paul D. Tripp, *How People Change*, Punch Press. Write a 5-8 page paper which is a response to a hypothetical “issue” that someone has emailed to you. For example, “How can I overcome addiction to pornography?” “I simply cannot get on with my wife.” “I am having a hard time forgiving my parents.” Your paper MUST reflect your having read the book. It should either say, “I have just read *How People Change* and here is what I would suggest in light of reading it. OR you can give a more critical answer that imagines that the email already shows a familiarity with the book and you are not convinced of its thesis.  
50% of grade.
3. Keep a *daily* Journal for the duration of the class. Reflect on: (a) reading of Scripture and time spent in prayer, (b) your walk with the Lord during the day, (c) your relationship to others: spouse, children, co-workers, neighbors, and church community, (d) issues of personal concern, (e) aspects of praise, (f.) reading done for class. This is expected to take 10-15 minutes each day. Be honest with yourself and the Lord.

NOTE: This is a private journal that will *not* be read by anyone including the professor. But you must present it to the professor who will look at it in your presence on the last day of class. It should be a serious journal.  
30% of grade.

## **V. OFFICE HOURS**

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 2:30-4:30 PM. by appointment.  
3725 Metzert Rd., College Park, MD 20740. Tel. 301 935 5900  
Email: clark@wallacepca.org

## VI. SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

### A. *Biblical Context: Life in the Kingdom*

- February 1
1. **Introduction**
  2. **Life in the Kingdom**  
Bob Lyn, *Local Church, Cosmic Kingdom*, (Handout)

### B. *Saved by Grace: The Theology of Sanctification*

- February 8
3. **The Doctrines of Grace**  
Martin Luther, "The Heidelberg Disputation," in *Basic Theological Writings*, ed. Timothy F. Lull, (Fortress), 30-49
  4. **The Nature of the Gospel**  
Bryan Chapell, *Holiness by Grace*, Crossway Books, 2001, 7-37.  
Tim Keller, *What is the Gospel?* (Handout)
- February 15
5. **Faith and Union With Christ**  
Calvin, *Institutes* III. 1-3, 537-621  
Chapell, *Holiness*, 38-65
  6. **Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**
- February 22
7. **The Relationship of Justification and Sanctification**  
Chapell, *Holiness*, 69-90.  
Stephen Clark, "Jonathan Edwards: The Assurance of Salvation and the Care of the Church", in *The Assembling of Ourselves Together*, ed. John Vance, WPC Books, 2005, 17-37.
  8. **Living in the Gospel**  
Walter Marshall *Directions* (Handout)  
Jerry Bridges, *Gospel Sanctification* (Handout)

### C. *The Means of Grace*

- March 1
9. **The Community of Christ: Word, Sacrament, Worship**  
Chapell, *Holiness*, 91-156  
Bonhoffer, *Life Together*, 7-75.
  10. **Word and Sacrament cont'd.**  
Luther, "The Blessed Sacrament," in Lull, 242-266

- March 8**
- 11. Prayer**  
Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 76-89  
Chapell, *Holiness*, 159-182.  
Harvie Conn, *Luke's Theology of Prayer*, (Handout)
  - 12. Spiritual Disciplines: Fasting, Feasting, Sabbath Keeping**

***D. Gracious Living: Models for the Christian in community***

- March 15**
- 13. Christian Community and Ministry of Mercy**  
Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, 90-122  
Chapell, *Holiness*, 182-224  
Martin Luther, "The Freedom of the Christian," in Lull, 585-629
  - 14. Models of Sanctification: From Asceticism to Perfectionism**
- March 22**
- 15. The Glory of God the Greatest Good**  
Chapell, *Holiness*, 225-243.
  - 16. Christian Calling and Vocation**