

Principles of Sanctification (6ST526)
Spring 2009

Reformed Theological Seminary
Instructor: Geoff Sackett
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Class meets at McLean Presbyterian Church, 1:00pm-4:00pm, on the following 4 dates:

Monday, February 2
Monday, February 16
Monday, March 2
Monday, March 16

Office Hours

I am happy to meet with you. Please feel free to contact me at gsackett@rts.edu to make an appointment or to submit comments or questions.

Description

(RTS Catalogue) This course emphasizes methodology, responsibility for personal growth in Christ, and a concern for the spiritual well being of others. This involves the study of Scripture for personal nurture and the exercise of certain disciplines necessary for spiritual growth.

Course Objectives

1. To deepen our appreciation for the centrality of Christ in the process of sanctification
2. To grasp something of the importance of the outward means of grace to Christian growth
3. To grow in our desire “to stir up one another to love and good works”

Required Texts (available from www.mindandheart.com)

John Calvin. *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (volumes 1 and 2)

Donald Alexander. *Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification*

373 total pages of required reading. See “Assignments” for details.

Note: various short articles will be distributed in class.

Lecture Schedule

Monday February 2

Lecture topics:

- Introduction: the goal and nature of sanctification
- Justification and sanctification

Monday February 16

Lecture topics:

- Union with Christ

Monday March 2

Lecture topics:

- Faith and repentance
- The means of grace: Word, sacraments, prayer

Monday March 16

Lecture topics:

- The means of grace (continued)
- Sanctification, service, suffering

Assignments

1. Read, in order:
 - a. *Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification* in its entirety (195 total pp)
 - b. *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (178 total pp)
 - i. Book III, Chapter I-II
 - ii. Book III, Chapter VI-IX
 - iii. Book III, Chapter XI-XIV
 - iv. Book IV, Chapter XIV, sections 1-12
 - v. Book IV, Chapter XVII, sections 1-11
2. Reflection papers (2 @ 25% each).
 - a. Write two reflection papers on two different sections of the required reading in the *Institutes*. In your reflections focus your thoughts on how the ideas in the section may be helpful (a) to your personal growth with Christ and (b) in your (current or future) ministry. One page each. Reflection papers are expected to demonstrate a solid understanding of the text and thoughtfulness in its application. You may begin this assignment immediately.
3. *Christian Spirituality* Review (25%). Write a 5-page review of *Christian Spirituality*, comparing and contrasting each of the five views on sanctification. Describe the main points and distinctive emphases of each view and discuss the respective strengths and weaknesses of each view. Five pages. You may begin this assignment immediately.

4. Application paper (25%). Take one of the following concepts (or one approved by the instructor) and explain how, in light of the lectures *and* readings *and* Scripture, it can be used to encourage fellow believers in their walk with Christ. [This is not required, but you may wish to structure your thoughts by way of a Sunday school curriculum, a bible study, or a one-on-one discipleship program]. Two pages.

Concepts:

- Union with Christ
- Christ's active obedience
- Christ's passive obedience
- Justification and sanctification
- Faith
- Repentance
- Indicative and imperative
- Preaching
- The Lord's Supper
- Prayer
- Self-denial/cross-bearing
- Service to others
- Suffering

Evaluation

- Reflection papers (2 @ 25% each)
- Review (25%)
- Application paper (25%)

All assignments are due **April 16**. Hard copies only (electronic copies will not be accepted) to my attention at 1028 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101.

Grading Scale

The standard RTS grading scale found in the catalogue will be used.