1NT613 Paul and Personal Relationships

2012 Dr. Hurley

A study of the management of personal relationships in Christian life with particular attention to the neuroscience correlates of them, with a focus on the letters to the Ephesians and the Philippians.

Prerequisite: Minimal acquaintance with brain science relevant to the course.

• For enrolled MFTC students: Required: 1PSY569.
• For others: Recommended: 1PSY569. Required: Selected readings designed to provide students with a minimal acquaintance with brain science relevant to the course.

This course will examine the ongoing transformational processes involved in sanctification and in the management of personal relationships in Christian life, with foci on the letters to the Ephesians and Philippians and on contemporary neuroscience relevant to the processes. Other biblical texts will also be considered. Issues such as God’s providential and immediate work in believers and unbelievers, the role of individual believer’s thoughts, experiences, emotions and actions, and the role of larger relationship systems such as marriages, families and the church will be considered. Because all human functioning, including the transformation of our minds in sanctification (Rom. 12:2), involves our brains, neuroscience correlates of personal and relationship functioning described in the Scripture will be examined and their implications for our application of biblical teaching will receive focused attention.

At the end of the course students

• Will have demonstrated an acquaintance with the background, context and content of Ephesians and Philippians
• Will have demonstrated an ability to understand a portion of Ephesians in the context of other New Testament literature
• Will have demonstrated an ability to present a portion of Ephesians in everyday language and to apply its teaching in a real-life setting
• Will be acquainted by lecture with the relational processes of Ephesians and their neuroscience correlates.

Assignments

1. Preparation: Background, context and content of the letters: (30%)

   This assignment is due at the first class meeting.

   • Background and context: Consult commentaries on Ephesians and on Philippians and prepare two reports of up to 1,200 words describing the date, authorship and context of the each letter.
   • Content: Read each letter carefully and prepare an outline of the letter which not only tracks the segments, but communicates what you understand to be the flow/logic of the text. This is not so much a verse by verse commentary as an analysis of the letter and its message.
     • A suggested format would be
       Bold header (Text included, e.g. Eph 1:1-1:17)
       Perhaps a sub-heading (Text included) Short narrative paragraph communicating the gist of the section and setting up for the transition to the next section.
       Perhaps a second sub-heading (Text included) More paragraph commentary on the meaning of the text.
2. **Paper: Other letters, Other lives**  
(70%  Due: 11 AM on Friday of the 3rd week after the course. Turn to Mike Hillerman in the MFTC office. 10 or 12 pt Arial or Times New Roman font, )

Each student will select a portion of at least 10 verses of the Ephesian letter for focused study. Using commentaries and journals, the student will look at the text itself and similar passages in other New Testament letters. The student will then prepare a paper of up to 8,000 words in which the content of the passage is

- Presented and explained
- Thoughtfully compared to other New Testament discussions of the central topic of the passage
- Paraphrased in a down-to-earth language expanded paraphrase understandable by contemporary persons
- Applied in three vignettes illustrating real life applications of the passage in a pastoral or clinical setting. The vignettes should be as clear as possible about the work of God, the role of persons as the teaching of the passage is applied and, where possible, how the process described relates to brain process (non-MFTC students will likely be weaker in clinical application vignettes but stronger in use of the original language).

**Course process:**

The course will meet in 4 3-hour lecture sessions and move through five components. In each we will look at a selected portion of Ephesians or Philippians. The last topic will receive the most attention.

**Introduction:**
- Context and content of Ephesians.
- Context and content of Philippians

**Topic 1:**
- God as a secure foundation

**Topic 2**
- Meaning frame and goals for life

**Topic 3**
- Relational security in life

**Topic 4**
- Handling differences
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** 1NT613  
**Professor:** Hurley  
**Campus:** Jackson  
**Date:** 2012  

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<tr>
<th>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
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