1NT613 Paul and Personal Relationships

2015  Dr. Hurley

In this course you will study 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, the Corinthians and the Philippians.

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

- For enrolled MFTC students: Required: 1PSY570A.
- For others: Recommended: 1PSY570A. Required: Selected readings designed to provide students with a minimal acquaintance with brain science relevant to the course.

We 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, the Corinthians 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.

At the end of the course students

CO1 Will have demonstrated an acquaintance with the background, context and content of Ephesians, 2 Corinthians and Philippians

CO2 Will have demonstrated an ability to understand a portion of Ephesians in the context of other New Testament literature

CO3 Will have demonstrated an ability to present a portion of Ephesians in everyday language and to apply its teaching in a real-life setting

CO4 Will be acquainted by lecture with the relational processes of Ephesians and their neuroscience correlates.

Assignments

NOTES about submitting assignments

Where to submit your work: All written work is to be submitted digitally to jhurleyrts@gmail.com. NEVER, EVER give materials directly to Dr. Hurley. If it is an item to be handed in, hand it in to the Assistant Program Development Coordinator at the office. ALWAYS keep a physical or digital copy.

Anonymity: All written assignments and exams should be identified by the last five digits of your Self-Service id number in the top header of each page and NOT by your name. Anonymity permits more objectivity in grading. The only exception is your genogram, which may have actual names.

Text formatting: Items should be in Georgia Font, 12 points, double spaced. (Georgia font has been selected because research indicates it gets the best grades.)

Submission time and date: Items are due before midnight of the due date. The date stamp on the email will be considered the submission time and date of the item.

Format for submission: Submit your work as a .doc or .docx file. If you have graphics to submit, include them as jpg files inserted into your doc file. If you have a problem achieving a jpg, chat with someone. Many smart phone apps can do the scan to a jpg format for you.
A1. Preparation: Background, context and content of the letters:  (40%)

This assignment is due by the first class meeting.

Title for email and for attached document: 1NT613_2015_Background_SSID5 (Where SSID5 are the last five digits of your Self-Service ID)

- Background and context: Consult commentaries on Ephesians, on 2 Corinthians and on Philippians and prepare three reports of up to 1,500 words each 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. Your outlines should not exceed two pages per chapter.
  - A suggested format would be
    Bold header (Identify Text included, e.g. Eph 1:1-1:17)
    Perhaps a sub-heading (Identify 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 (Identify Text included) More paragraph commentary on the meaning of the text.

A2. Paper: Other letters, Other lives  (60% Due: Friday of the 3rd week after the course)

- Title for email and for attached document: 1NT613_2015_Eph_SSID5 (Where SSID5 are the last five digits of your Self-Service ID)

Select a portion of at least 10 verses of the Ephesian letter for focused study. Using commentaries and journals, look at the text itself and similar passages in other New Testament letters. 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 six components. In each we will look at a selected portion of Ephesians, 2 Corinthians or Philippians. The last topic will receive the most attention.

**Introduction:**
- Introduction to Paul
- Context and content of Ephesians.
- Context and content of Philippians
- Context and content of 2 Corinthians

**L1 Topic 1:**
- God as a secure foundation

**L2 Topic 2**
- Meaning frame and goals for life

**L3 Topic 3**
- Relational security in life

**L4 Topic 4**
- Caring and caring connection

**L5v Topic 5**
- Handling differences

**L7 Topic 6**
- Repairing relationships