

The Christian Life
Revised Syllabus

Dr. Steve Brown

Course Description:

Never before has ministry been so difficult, so painful and so confusing. Most of us have thought that the remedy for the difficulty, the pain and the confusion is to acquire an increasing number of pastoral skills and to apply them to the church. Thereby, we believe, we will be able to “fix” the problems, become successful and see the church as increasingly effective in bringing glory and honor to God.

While there is nothing wrong with the acquisition of pastoral skills and, in fact, those are necessary, sometimes real help comes, not from knowing more or becoming more skilled at what we do know, but from returning to the basics of our faith and drawing supernatural power, freedom and joy from that return.

The purpose of this course is to “return” to the roots, i.e. the incredible joy and freedom we knew at the beginning of our walk with Christ. In this course, you will be required to examine the layers of ecclesiastical, institutional and personal issues which have layered over and robbed you and the church of the power of grace. To that end, you will be required to...

Reading List:

The one page standard reading report on each book read is due on the same due date of the integration paper.

Brown, Steve (All Steve Brown Titles are available through Key Life Ministries www.keylife.org and RTS Bookstore www.mindandheart.com)

2005 *Scandalous Freedom* (Howard Publishing)

2007 *What Was I Thinking (Things I've Learned Since I Knew it All)*
(Howard/Simon Schuster).

Bevington, Bob and Jerry Bridges

2007 *The Great Exchange* (Crossway Books)

Chapell, Bryan

2001 *Holiness By Grace* (Crossway Books)

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: PT513 (The Christian Life)

Professor: Steve Brown

Campus: Washington

Date: 1/31/12

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Student required to submit a paper referencing application of course material into biographical elements of student's life. There are ten scenarios (actual church events) to which each student should respond with application of course material to five of the scenarios.
Scripture	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.)	Strong	Because the issues discussed and applied in the class are fairly radical, Biblical justification for the points taught are vital in a systematic way and in the defense of the positions taught.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	The course is primarily an exploration of grace and it's relevance to leaders and the church, Reformed theology is the systematic grid through which the course is taught. The "Doctrines of Grace" are at the heart of the course.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	A basic principle of the course is that one can't love until one has been loved and then only to the degree to which one has been loved. This principle is applied to the process of sanctification and holiness. It is a particular mark of Biblical and Reformed Christian practice that sanctification (as well as justification) are accomplished

			by grace (i.e. the Gospel)
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Moderate	While this course doesn't deal directly with a meta-narrative, the implications to world view are obvious and clearly taught.
Winsomely Reformed	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.)	Strong	Reformed theology has a tendency to produce intellectual arrogance. This point is made often in lectures and discussions. Grace, when properly understood doesn't require that one be right, pretend to be good or that one has anything to defend. It becomes winsome by it's very nature.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Moderate	Because the professor is also involved in teaching homiletics, there are significant implications of the course material to preaching and teaching. Those areas of the material are often discussed and referenced.
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	Very little time is devoted to worship in this course with the exception of a fairly extensive discussion on "worship wars" and the implications of a profound understanding of grace to all aspects of church life.
Shepherd	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.	Strong	Pastor theology is integrated into the lectures and the scenarios to which students respond. Almost all of the material is geared to pastoral work and the gospel implications to the community of the church locally and globally.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	These areas often are a part of the discussion in the class but are not addressed in a major way.