Engaging Cultural Questions about Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: Theological, Relational and Practical Issues for Churches and Ministries

ST612 (1 Credit)

June 5, 2015, 4:30-9PM; June 6, 2015, 9AM-3PM

This weekend seminar will help current and prospective pastors and ministry leaders hone their theology of public engagement, particularly with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity issues. Topics will cover theological and relational considerations; setting biblically faithful, culturally prudent organizational policy; and communicating on challenging issues in the public square. The course will be taught by experts in several fields and introduce church and ministry leaders to a variety of resources and issues that warrant their attention in an increasingly conflicted pluralistic society.

Before the weekend, we recommend that you listen to Rosaria Butterfield, "From Radical Lesbian to Redeemed Christian: An Interview with Rosaria Champagne Butterfield," 24 minutes, and "Hospitality on a Mission," Authors on the Line podcast from Desiring God Ministries, Feb. 19, 2013 (iTunes), 17 minutes (listed also below).

Required Reading:

- Rosaria Butterfield, Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ (Crown and Covenant, 2015), 204 pages
- Sam Allberry, Is God Anti-Gay? And Other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible, and Same-Sex Attraction (The Good Book Company, 2013), 88 pages
- Kevin DeYoung, What the Bible Says about Homosexuality, 160 pages
- "What You Need to Know about Marriage: Questions and Answers Driving the Debate," 10 pages (on the "Modules" tab of the course homepage)
• White paper on equipping churches and ministries for policy challenges related to sexual orientation and gender identity, 20 pages
• Jennifer Marshall, "The Church's Liberty," 9 pages (on the “Modules” tab of the course homepage)

Required Online Component:


• Rosaria Butterfield, “From Radical Lesbian to Redeemed Christian: An Interview with Rosaria Champagne Butterfield,” 24 minutes, and "Hospitality on a Mission," Authors on the Line podcast from Desiring God Ministries, Feb. 19, 2013 (iTunes), 17 minutes

Writing:

Complete 10 pages, double-spaced, in response to questions that will be supplied in class.

These essays, along with a reading report (stating the completion of required readings), are due to hgriffith@rts.edu, and (copy to) jmarshall@rts.edu by July 10, 2015.