

The Theology of Leadership in Community
Doctor of Ministry Course
TS802 Syllabus
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Bethel Seminary, St Paul, MN

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Syllabus

Course Description

Too often, leadership and theology are not understood as being inherently connected. In this course, we will bring biblical perspectives of leadership into conversation with theological movements to seek a closer integration between leadership theory and theological reflection. In particular, we will discover the impact of a theology of the cross on the character and competence of the Christian leader and the formation of Christian community.

Introductory Comments

This class will be a reflective study of ministry leadership and the theology that undergirds it. Obviously, there is no way a one-week seminar can be a comprehensive study of ministry or leadership. Nonetheless, this seminar can and will center on the heart of both ministry and leadership as well as selected vital skills that all leaders must practice.

The seminar will consist of three segments: pre-seminar assignments, classroom interaction and instruction, and a post-seminar assignment. Excellence in your pre-seminar work will make your classroom experience a beneficial one as the intensive will be organized around conversations concerning the required texts and Biblical study.

Course Objectives

The aim of this course is that the ministry leader will:

1. Integrate new growth in self-awareness into a deeper understanding of God's sovereign work in his/her life.
2. Understand key biblical and theological principles in the leader formation process.
3. Develop enhanced skills in specific areas of leadership resulting in a change in attitudes and actions.
4. Grow in a deeper understanding of selected theological insights and their impact on ministry leadership.

Topical Outline

- The Theology of the Cross and the Leader
- Principles of Leader Formation
- The Trinity and the Leader
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: A Case Study in Theological Leadership
- Mentoring the Heart

Classroom Schedule

The class will meet from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and from 1:00 PM to 4:15 PM Monday through Thursday, and from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Friday. Since time is limited, attendance is expected at all class sessions.

Required Texts

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Discipleship*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.

_____. *Life Together and Prayer Book of the Bible*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1996. (The student is only required to read *Life Together*)

Clinton, Robert J. *The Making of a Leader*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.

Collins, James C. *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap, and Others Don't*. New York: Harper Business, 2001.

_____. *Good to Great and the Social Sectors: Why Business Thinking is Not the Answer*. Boulder, Co.: 2005.

Forde, Gerhard. *On Becoming a Theologian of the Cross*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Eerdmans Press, 1997.

Kouzes, James A. and Barry Z. Posner. *The Leadership Challenge*. 4th Edition. San Francisco, CA.: Jossey-Bass, 2008.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Crucified God*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 1993.

Nouwen, Henri. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1989.

Sanders, Oswald J. *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2007.

Pre-Course Assignments

1. Read all required texts
2. Write a 10 page reflection paper in which you interact with the key themes that have arisen through your reading. The intention of this paper is for you to make connections across the reading and to begin to identify the themes that God seems to be opening up to you as you reflect on the reading material.
3. Answer the following questions drawn from our Lord's formation of His leaders in the Gospel of Mark.

THE LEADER FORMATION

PROCESS IN MARK: STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Compare Mark 3:1-5 with Mark 6:45-52. What do these two passages share in common? How do you explain this commonality?
2. What is so significant about "the incident of the loaves" that Mark uses it as the measuring standard of the disciples' response to the storm on Galilee in Mark 6:45-52?

3. What is missing from Mark's account of the storm? Compare Matthew 14:31. Why does Jesus respond the way he does? What does this mean for us in ministry? Go back to Mark 6. What is the chief point Jesus teaches His disciples in this chapter?
4. Look at the miracles in Mark 7:24-30, 7:31-37; 8:1-10; and 8:22-26. How do these miracles relate to one another as well as to the concepts found in Mark 3:1-5 and 6:45-52? What is Mark's authorial intent in selecting these miracles in particular?
5. Compare Mark 3:1-5, 6:45-52 and 8:14-21. What do these three passages have in common? What is the point of this commonality?
6. Look at Mark 8:27-30 and Matthew 16:13-19. Note what Matthew included in his expanded presentation. Now look at Mark 8:31-33. How do you explain this sudden change? What do you believe Peter was doing that made Jesus call him Satan and tell him he was setting his mind on man's interests and not God's? How does this relate to your drives in the ministry?
7. Look at Mark 9:30-34, 10:33-45, Luke 22:14-24, and Mark 14:27-31. What two major elements do these passages all have in common? Why do you think this is? How does the struggle found here show up in your ministry?
8. Review Mark 3:1-5, 6:45-52, 8:14-21, and 16:14. What do all of these passages have in common? How does this express itself in your ministry? How can you move toward freedom from this struggle?

Post Course Assignment

Utilizing the material presented and discussed in class each student will complete a project that demonstrates an understanding of the concepts presented in the course and integrates them in a practical ministry context (*see section 5 of the D.Min. Student Manual*). The project will be turned in and graded by the instructor, due **July 1, 2010**.

General Course Expectations

Written assignments should represent the student's own work, conform to principles of academic integrity, and reflect doctoral-level thinking and writing skills, and be in accordance with the program's guidelines for style and form issues (*see section 7 of the D.Min. Student Manual*).

Disability Services Statement

Accessibility: Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if disability-related accommodations are needed. Accommodations for students with documented disabilities are set up through the office of Disability Services. Contact Kathy McGillvray, Director of Disability Services at (651) 635-8759.