

MN 716 THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Spring, 2010

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Three Credit Hours

Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit

PURPOSE

This course seeks to examine the central position of the forgiveness of sins in pastoral ministry. Utilizing Biblical, theological, historical and psychological resources, students will gain a better understanding of what Eduard Thurneysen refers to as the “basis of pastoral care.” After carefully analyzing the nature of sin, including expressions of shame and guilt, students will focus upon caring skills in order to encourage the receiving and offering of forgiveness. Finally, students will be encouraged to examine the pastoral image of Confessor and to develop a model of ministry which helps the congregation reclaim the “Office of the Keys.”

OBJECTIVES

Course Objectives:

- 1.To understand the central role of forgiveness in Christian thought and practice.**
- 2.To gain insights into the difficulties with which many Christian struggle regarding offering and accepting forgiveness.**
- 3.To gain an understanding of the contemporary theological and psychological conversations regarding forgiveness.**
- 4.To begin to develop a ministry plan for helping Christians to better appropriate for themselves and offer to others forgiveness.**

Curricular Objectives:

- 1. Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase one’s love of God and neighbor and shape one’s personal and professional life.**
- 2. Provide pastoral care for individuals and congregations in daily life and moments of transition and crisis.**
- 3. Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.**

EVALUATION

- 1. Regular attendance (two excused absences are permissible).**
- 2. Faithful participation in all class discussions – 10%**
- 3. Response Paper 6-8 pages – 40%**
- 4. 8-10 page comprehensive ministry plan for pastoral ministry emphasizing the forgiveness of sins – 50%**

TENTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required Texts:

Jones, L. Gregory. *Embodying Forgiveness: A Theological Analysis.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

McMinn, Mark R. *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling.* Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2008

Narramore, S. Bruce, *No Condemnation: Rethinking Guilt Motivation in Counseling, Preaching and Parenting.* Eugene: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2002

Shults, F. LeRon and Sandage, Steven. *The Faces of Forgiveness: Searching for Wholeness and Salvation.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.

Wiesenthal, Simon. *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness.* New York: Schocken, 1998.