

DISCIPLESHIP

C.E. # 233

O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed are those who take refuge in Him! Come and hear, all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul. This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Psalms 34:8; 66:16; John 15:12 NASB

Fall 2004 B-Quad

(Thursdays 7-10:15pm, BGC 250)

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Learning Outcomes:

The ultimate purpose of this course is for you to echo Augustine, "I desire to know God and the soul...let me know myself, let me know Thee." While we probe this knowledge of God and knowledge of self, the course will help you to further understand and embrace the calling on your life to be a disciple of Jesus and to help others to become disciples of Him. Therefore, in this class we will attempt together,

- 1) to delineate in holistic fashion the characteristics of maturing disciples of Jesus.
- 2) to challenge some of the postmodern assumptions concerning life and living through exploring the Biblical narrative and how we are to "indwell the story".
- 3) to develop and practice the habits of reflection and articulation.
- 4) to develop a philosophical and theological framework through which an intentional discipling relationship might be fostered.
- 5) to facilitate a vibrant learning community as we journey as disciples.

Instructional Resources:

Required Texts:

The Holy Scriptures

Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ, Dallas Willard

The Knowledge of the Holy, A.W. Tozer

Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ, John Piper

Optional Texts:

The Mark of the Christian, Francis A. Schaeffer

Reserve: *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*, Dallas Willard

Spiritual Mentoring, Keith R. Anderson & Randy D. Reese

Invitation to a Journey:

A Roadmap for Spiritual Formation, M. Robert Mulholland Jr.

Recommended Text:

Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ, Jeanne Guyon

Suggest Resources for Further Study:

The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives, Dallas Willard
The Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster
The Master Plan of Discipleship, Robert E. Coleman
The Cost of Discipleship, Dietrich Bonhoeffer
The Walk: A Moment in Time When Two Lives Intersect, Michael Card
Discipleship of the Mind & Habits of the Mind, both by James W. Sire
The Inner Life, Evelyn Underhill
Creative Ministry & Making All Things New, both by Henri J.M. Nouwen

Course Assignments:

Weekly Reflective Responses (2-3 pages each): DO NOT SUMMARIZE THE READINGS

After the readings for the week are completed, you will spend at least one hour of focused time in contemplation (this time will center around, but is not limited to, the questions Willard offers at the end of his chapters). Afterwards you will write a reflection paper on your experience wherein you integrate readings and classroom discussion and lecture.

The following words of Henri J.M. Nouwen, from *The Wounded Healer*, are shared here as guiding remarks for these assignments:

[We must] enter ourselves first of all into the center of our existence and become familiar with the complexities of our inner lives. As soon as we feel home in our own house, discover the dark corners as well as the light spots, the closed doors as well as the drafty rooms, our confusion will evaporate, our anxiety will diminish, and we will become capable of creative work. The key word here is articulation. Those who can articulate the movements of their inner life, who can give names to their varied experiences, need no longer be victims of themselves, but are able slowly and consistently to remove the obstacles that prevent the spirit from entering. They are able to create space for Him whose heart is greater than theirs, whose eyes see more than theirs, and whose hands can heal more than theirs. This articulation, I believe, is the basis for spiritual leadership of the future, because only they who are able to articulate their own experiences can offer themselves to others as a source of clarification.

In light of this, each written reflection should contain these various elements:

At the beginning of each reflection please state **1)** Where you sat and **2)** for how long (each sitting should be at the very least one hour). This will then be followed by a short comment on **3)** the nature of your attentiveness (i.e. How focused were you able to be? What was the state of your soul? etc.).

You will then **4)** structure your written reflection around the two to four “*Matters for thought and discussion*” questions which you meditated upon during your hour of reflection (these are found at the end of each chapter of Willard’s book). From here I ask that you articulate what you thought about, journaled, prayed, or discovered. These reflections are intended as an opportunity for you to reflect upon your own life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. From the description of a disciple defined in the various readings and class material, consider the domains of your own life that are in need of most attention. What practical steps might be taken in order to place you in a position of more faithful discipleship?

New Testament Epistle Exegesis & Lectio Divina Papers (2 papers - 5 pages each)

This exercise is an opportunity for you to contemplate discipleship as seen through a NT Epistle of your choosing. To prepare for these two papers you will slowly read through your selected Epistle. You will then write as explained below:

1) New Testament Epistle Exegesis Paper (NOTE: This paper is to be written first.)

Using the material given in class, you will choose one passage from an Epistle and write a paper in light of an inductive and exegetical reading of the text. More details will follow.

2) New Testament Epistle Lectio Divina Paper

Using the Lectio Divina format as a guide to your study, you will choose one passage (SAME AS ABOVE PASSAGE) and write a paper in which you address what you have learned about discipleship using your Lectio Divina reflection/meditation as the backbone of your writing. (You are also expected to make connections to other readings from this class or others while reflecting on possible applications to your present or future ministry context). More details will follow.

Final Project: Choose one of the following (7-9 pages)

I also ask that you turn in a notation concerning the % of reading completed for the course. (Put at beginning of final project or attach a separate sheet with this info.)

a) Critical Evaluation of a Discipleship Program

Utilizing the Frankena model discussed in class, you will have the opportunity to critique an existing discipleship program. You will address both the philosophical and programmatic aspects of the “curriculum” in light of the material covered in class. More details will follow.

b) Development of a Discipleship Program for a Particular Individual or Group

Utilizing the readings and notes from class, develop a discipleship curriculum for a particular setting that reflects your own passions and interests. You will use the Frankena model discussed in class as a framework within which to develop your curriculum. More details will follow.

Extra Credit

***The Mark Of A Christian* Extra Credit Reflection Paper (2 pages)**

After reading Schaeffer's *The Mark of a Christian*, write a reflection paper in light of the following quote and questions:

Consider this quote by Brother Lawrence from *The Practice of the Presence of God*: “*All things are possible to him who believes...who hopes...who loves...and most of all who perseveres in the practice of these virtues.*”

What is the relationship between faith, hope, and love in regards to discipleship? Why is the greatest of these love?

Quotations and Questions reflecting Willard's *Divine Conspiracy* (1 page)

After reading both chapters 8 & 9 from the optional reserved reading, submit a page with several quotations and questions that show your interaction with the material.

Assignment Guidelines and Grading:

Papers will be graded on strength of content (i.e., level of reflection and/or analysis) and strength of expression/articulation (i.e., style, organization, clarity). Out of fairness to everyone, unless there are extenuating circumstances, assignment grades will be decreased five points for each day they are late (weekends excluded). Papers should be typed and double-spaced. Citations in the final project should conform to the standards of *Kate Turabian: A Manual for Writers*.

Willard Reflection Papers (35% - 5 papers @ 7% each)

NT Epistle Exegesis Paper (15%)

NT Epistle Lectio Divina Paper (15%)

Final Project (35%)

Schaeffer Extra Credit Reflection Paper with

Willard's Divine Conspiracy quotes & questions (+5% max)

94-100 = A

90-93 = A-

87-89 = B+

84-86 = B

80-83 = B-

77-79 = C+

74-76 = C

70-73 = C-

Grading for reflection papers:

The grades for these assignments will reflect the quality of articulation and written work & not the quality of your own journey. Please do not look at this grade as an assessment of your spiritual walk. It is a difficult thing to grade when the material being written is so reflective and personal – understand that this grade is simply an attempt to assess how well you articulate your time of meditation. The following will be used in determining a grade:

Pre-reflection:	_____	/10
Strength of content:	_____	/30
Strength of style:	_____	/20
Strength of organization:	_____	/20
Strength of clarity:	_____	/20
	_____	Late Paper (-5 points/day late)
GRADE:	_____	/100

Class Community:

One of the goals of the class is to facilitate a vibrant learning community through in-class group work, dialogue over issues, and opportunities to discuss personal ministry concerns with the class. *Therefore, class participation is both expected and required.* Your contributions, whether through an insight given or questions brought for discussion, are an essential element of class quality. This will require that readings are completed before each class and that you come prepared with questions to help engage discussion. It is my prayer that together throughout the quad we will grow as a spiritual learning community. I also ask that you stop by and sign up to meet with me during an office hour sometime during the quad. I look forward to journeying alongside each of you and hope to get to know you outside of the classroom setting.

Course Schedule & Objectives:

October 21: Introduction to course & Discipleship frameworks

October 28: Discipleship Frameworks Continued

GUEST: Gary LaVanchy – Discipleship Small Group Coordinator, Wheaton College

- Read: 1) I Corinthians 13
2) Renovation of the Heart – prelude through Chapter 2
3) Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ (preface-chpt. 1)
4) Two Attributes from The Knowledge of the Holy (chpts. 4-22)
5) “On Being a Disciple, or Student, of Jesus” from The Divine Conspiracy (chapter 8) by Dallas Willard – **optional reserve** (*book not photocopies*)

Due: Willard Reflective Response # 1

November 4: Discipleship & Spiritual Formation: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship Part I: The Teachings of Jesus

- Read: 1) Matthew 5-7
2) Renovation of the Heart – Chapter 3 through Chapter 5
3) Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ (chpts. 2-4)
4) Two Attributes from The Knowledge of the Holy (chpts. 4-22)

Due: Willard Reflective Response #2

November 11: Discipleship & Spiritual Formation: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship Part II: The New Testament Authors

- Read: 1) Matthew 1-4
2) Renovation of the Heart – Interlude through Chapter 7
3) Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ (chpts. 5 & 6)
4) Two Attributes from The Knowledge of the Holy (chpts. 4-22)

Due: Willard Reflective Response #3

November 18: Discipleship: The Mind & The Heart

- Read: 1) Matthew 26-28; I Peter 4
2) Renovation of the Heart – Chapter 8 through Chapter 10
3) Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ (chpts. 7 & 8)
4) Two Attributes from The Knowledge of the Holy (chpts. 4-22)

Due: Willard Reflective Response #4

November 25: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Read: Personally Selected Epistle

(I highly recommend you begin some meditative study for the papers)

December 2: Discipleship: Personality & Relationships

Read: 1) Personally Selected Epistle

2) Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ (chpts. 9 & 10)

3) Two Attributes from The Knowledge of the Holy (chpts. 4-22)

Due: New Testament Epistle Exegesis & Lectio Divina Papers

December 9: Discipleship: The Church & Our Culture

Read: 1) I John

2) Renovation of the Heart – Chapter 11 through Postlude

3) Seeing & Savoring Jesus Christ (chpts 11-13)

4) Two Attributes from The Knowledge of the Holy (chpts. 4-22)

Due: Willard Reflective Response #5

Finals Week – no class

Read: 1) Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ (Conclusion)

2) The Knowledge of the Holy chapter 23, “The Open Secret”

3) “A Curriculum for Christlikeness” from The Divine Conspiracy

(chapter 9) by Dallas Willard – **optional reserve (*book not photocopies*)**

Due: Final Project w/notation concerning the % of reading completed
Extra Credit Assignments