1-1-2004

DO 660 The Christian Doctrine of Holiness

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Recommended Citation
http://place.asburyseminary.edu/syllabi/1409
I. PURPOSE: This course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of the theological and practical aspects of the Christian doctrine of holiness. The doctrine of holiness will be considered from the perspective of biblical, historical, systematic, and practical theology. The contemporary relevance of the Wesleyan understanding of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry will be stressed.

II. OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course the students will:

A. Have grasped the major biblical emphases and themes in relation to the doctrine of holiness.

B. Understand the different ways the doctrine of holiness has been interpreted throughout church history and in various theological traditions.

C. Have grown in their understanding and appreciation for the Wesleyan doctrine of holiness.

D. Have examined, evaluated and used a reasonable range of literature related to the study of the doctrine of Christian holiness.

E. Have grown in their ability to lead others into a deeper experience and understanding of holiness.

F. Have grasped the importance of the doctrine of holiness for the Christian life and the practice of ministry.

G. Have grown in their love for God through their study of the doctrine of holiness.
III. **TEXTBOOKS** (in the order we will read them):

William Greathouse, **WHOLENESS IN CHRIST**  
Paul Bassett & William Greathouse, **EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HOLINESS, VOL 2.**  
Melvin Dieter, **FIVE VIEWS OF SANCTIFICATION**  
Leona Frances Choy, **POWERLINES: What Great Evangelicals Believed About the Holy Spirit**  
Dennis Kinlaw, **THE MIND OF CHRIST**

IV. **REQUIREMENTS:**

A. Regular and active participation in class sessions.

B. A 4-Mat Reflection on **three** of the five texts (See explanation of the 4-Mat below). The 4-Mats will be due on the designated days when we will discuss the texts in class (20%).

C. A Group Project involving a class presentation on an assigned subject related to Practical Holiness. On the first day of class Dr. Seamands will present the options for project based on the following Chart (30 %)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Drives, Passions or Pleasures</th>
<th>Corresponding Sinful Abuses</th>
<th>Corresponding Spiritual Disciplines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eating and Drinking</td>
<td>Gluttony or Drunkenness</td>
<td>Fasting and Moderation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companionship</td>
<td>Co-dependency (inordinately needing to be needed)</td>
<td>Solitude and Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working</td>
<td>“Workaholism”/Performance Orientation</td>
<td>Resting, Sabbath-taking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Pornography, Adultery, Emotional Affairs, Fornication</td>
<td>Chastity, Abstinence, Sexual Intimacy in Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earning Money</td>
<td>Greed</td>
<td>Frugality, Tithing, Giving Alms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech</td>
<td>Slander, Lies, Gossip</td>
<td>Silence, Praise, Confession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation, Entertainment, Play</td>
<td>Living for Toys, Fun and Games</td>
<td>Moderation, Media Fasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing</td>
<td>Dressing to Impress or Flaunt</td>
<td>Simplicity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
D. A final project consisting of ONE of the following (50%):

1. A Book Review (6-8 pages) and a Sermon (6-8 pages). Here is a list of suggested books which to consider for your book review:

W.E. Sangster, THE PATH TO PERFECTION  
John L. Peters, CHRISTIAN PERFECTION AND AMERICAN METHODISM  
J.I. Packer, REDISCOVERING HOLINESS  
KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT  
John Gammie, HOLINESS IN ISRAEL  
Michael Brown, GO AND SIN NO MORE!  
Randy Clark, ed., POWER, HOLINESS, AND EVANGELISM  
Rudolph Otto, THE IDEA OF THE HOLY  
Richard Gilbertson, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
J. Sidlow Baxter, A NEW CALL TO HOLINESS  
HIS DEEPER WORK IN US  
R.N. Flew, THE IDEA OF PERFECTION IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY  
Donald Metz, STUDIES IN BIBLICAL HOLINESS  
Peter Gillquist, DESIGNED FOR HOLINESS  
J. Baines Atkinson, THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS  
Mel-Thomas Rothwell, PREACHING HOLINESS EFFECTIVELY  
William Hulme, THE DYNAMICS OF SANCTIFICATION  
Jerry Bridges, THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS  
Thomas Cook, NEW TESTAMENT HOLINESS  
Andrew Murray, HOLY IN CHRIST  
THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST  
Richard Howard, NEWNESS OF LIFE  
Richard Taylor, EXPLORING CHRISTIAN HOLINES, vol. 3  
Stephen Olford, THE WAY OF HOLINESS  
Alan Kreider, JOURNEY TOWARDS HOLINESS  
J.C. Ryle, HOLINESS  
V. Raymond Edman, THEY FOUND THE SECRET  
Leo Cox, JOHN WESLEY’S CONCEPT OF PERFECTION  
Dwight H. Small, THE HIGH COST OF HOLY LIVING  
John Walters, PERFECTION IN NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY  
Mildred Wynkoop, A THEOLOGY OF LOVE  
Lawrence Wood, PENTECOSTAL GRACE  
Ian W. Thomas, THE SAVING LIFE OF CHRIST  
Richard Gilbertson, THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
George Pardington, THE CRISIS OF THE DEEPER LIFE  
John White, THE PATHWAY OF HOLINESS
In your review, after introducing the book (in terms of its purpose, context, and audience), spend 3-4 pages summarizing the content of the book and 3-4 pages evaluating the book in terms of its strengths and weaknesses.

For your sermon, choose a text directly related to the subject of holiness. Make sure that your sermon is a “biblical” sermon (i.e. a sermon which expounds the chosen text) and not merely “Christian” sermon (i.e. a sermon which is Christian in content but is only indirectly related to the chosen text).


V. COURSE OUTLINE

A. The Holiness of God

B. An Inclusive Vision of the Holy Life

C. Some Basic Principles of Holiness

D. The Reformed and the Wesleyan Visions of Holiness.

E. Holiness and the Holy Spirit
F. Practical Holiness: Helping People along the Pathway to Holiness

G. Social holiness

4-Mat Reflections

To do the 4-Mat reflections (named for Bernice McCarthy's 4-Mat system) on the three texts, lay out your pages so that every pair of facing pages has these headings:

Left: Abstract Summary

Right: Concrete Stories/Memories

Evoked by the Item

Reflection Expressed as Questions

Action: What I Must Do Because of This

Here are some explanations/guidelines adapted from Dr. Donald Joy to help you get a better grasp of the four elements in the 4-Mat system.

(a) **ABSTRACT: Reader’s Digest Summary.** Simply summarize the content of the assigned reading in your own words. There should be NO personal commentary or attempt to evaluate the content of the materials. Just summarize what the author says. Include as many of the key concepts and ideas as you can. Strive to be both comprehensive and intensive. Your summary should be stylistically correct, coherent and clear. The abstract should be one single-spaced page in length. Use a number number 12 typefont (nothing smaller!) for your Abstract and 1 inch margins (no less) so you can include as much as possible in your summary.

Remember that meaning making requires first that you transform the reading materials into your OWN words. Effective "note taking" is more than capturing another person's words; it requires transforming a communication into your own language and symbols. Use explicit and visible QUOTE marks to identify
the author's words. All other written material not clearly cited should be your own constructions and abstracted summaries of what you read.

(b) CONCRETE: Get Vulnerable! Describe one or two personal experiences which reading this material reminded you of. Here is your chance to be a storyteller. Tell it here in “first person,” describing action, quoting exact words you remember hearing or saying. Be as specific and concrete as you can, including who, what, when, where details. However, make sure that your personal anecdotes are clearly grounded in the concepts of the reading assignment. The “Concrete” section should not exceed half a page (Number 12 typefont on this and c and d below).

If you can connect what you are reading and hearing with what you have previously lived or observed, you will be profoundly changed by the semester. If you cannot connect the semester with past and present personal realities, you will never be able to teach or use what you are learning with any conviction and effectiveness.

(c) REFLECTION: What questions popped up as you read this material? Keep a rough note sheet at hand as you read so you can write them down. Then simply list three or four of them. Your questions may be critical or grounded in spontaneous curiosity or naive yearning for solutions. However, make sure they relate directly to the MATERIAL CONTENT of the reading materials NOT to the experience(s) you have just described in b. This section should take up about one fourth to a third of a page.

(d) ACTION: So What Are You Going to Do About it, Anyway? All ministry related learning MUST lead to acts of ministry--whether through transformation of your inner person or your acquiring of useful knowledge or skills. Here describe what you simply must DO if you keep faith with what you have now discovered as a result of reading this material. Make sure that your actions are MAST (Measurable, Attainable, Specific and able to be accomplished within a given Time frame) (For example, For the next three weeks, during our family devotions, I will seek to briefly and simply talk with our children about the various dimensions of God’s holiness). Do not report reflective responses (for example “I need to learn or read or pray more about holiness”). This section should comprise one fourth to one third of a page.