

*The John Leland Center for Theological Studies, Main Campus
Columbia Baptist Church, 103 W Columbia St., Falls Church, VA 22046
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B 1525: Church, Culture, and Ethics: A Study of 1 Corinthians

Time: Fall 2009, Tuesdays 8.10 -9.50 PM

Credit: 2 credit hours

Instructor: Daniel Dapaah, PhD.

Prerequisites: TP 2101; TP 2501; B 1501/2; B 1701/2

Course Description and Objectives

This is an advanced exploration of the influence of culture, secular ethics, and social conventions on the emerging Christian community at Corinth. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is a masterful pastoral treatise for a Christian community that was confronted with a specific set of problems in the first century AD. 1 Corinthians is therefore a crucial text for understanding the history of early Christianity. Both the literary artistry of the text and the socio-historical settings of the community will be carefully observed and analyzed for a better understanding of the letter's intention and impact.

The course will focus on important hermeneutical issues raised in the letter and the contemporary exegetical methods and resources that have been employed to evaluate and communicate the meaning of the text. Special attention will be given to Paul's strategies (theological and ethical principles) for dealing with those problems.

The course is designed (i) to help the student become acquainted with the socio-historical background and theological issues of 1 Corinthians; (ii) to enhance and sharpen the student's expository skills through reflective thought and exegetical research on 1 Corinthians; and (iii) to explore the theological relevance and pastoral implications of 1 Corinthians for the church today.

Required Texts

1. Fee, Gordon, D. *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* NICNT. Eerdmans, 1987 (ISBN 0-8028-2507-9).
2. Hays, Richard B. *First Corinthians*. WJK, 1997 (ISBN 0-8042-3144-3).
3. Winter, Bruce, W. *After Paul Left Corinth: The Influence of Secular Ethics and Social Change*. Eerdmans, 2001 (ISBN 0-8028-4898-2).

Course Requirements

1. Careful reading and study of all the assigned material.
2. (i) An exegetical paper (10-12 pages, double-spaced, excluding bibliographic data);
(ii) A 15-minute class presentation on one issue in the letter.
3. Final exam.