

GRACE BIBLICAL SEMINARY

THEOLOGY OF EMOTIONS:

2 Semester Hours

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Spring Semester, 2021

April 10 – June 19

SYLLABUS

April 10 - June 19

Saturdays – Five in person meetings on Zoom

Course Description

Theology of Emotions. Emotions exist within the Trinity and, therefore, as Image bearers, emotions exist within us. Massive confusion concerning their significance and place exist within Evangelical Christianity and in world cultures. Emotions are a critical element for the Christian counselor, pastor, and discipler to understand. Emotions are also a major area of struggle in the spiritual life as presented in the Bible. Using emotions as a starting point, we will biblically examine their place in the doctrine of salvation and ecclesiology, and especially their role in spirituality. 2 hours.

Required Texts

David Eckman, Becoming Who God Intended Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2005.

David Eckman, Theology of Emotions Workbook, California: BWGI Ministries, 2021.

Short Supplemental Readings to be Provided:

B.B. Warfield, “The Emotional Life of our Lord” from The Person and Work of Christ.

David Eckman, The Psychology of The Christian Life as Pictured in The Social Institutions of Galatians: With an Excursus. Available as a file download.

Reading Levels

There are two levels of reading

Familiarity level. This level assumes knowledge of the material assigned and leads to accountability in class. (45 pages per hour).

Mastery level. Reading at this level will average about 20 pages per hour and assumes careful reflective interaction with the ideas, note taking, and will lead to accountability in class, and papers at a mastery level (1000 pages = 50 hours).

These are intended to serve as flexible guidelines or rules of thumb; they are not thought to be rigid. It is certainly understood that books are printed with varying numbers of words per page and written to varying reading levels.

Each assignment **should be completed before the class session that discusses the material** so that you will be able to participate in and benefit from the class discussion.

Written Work

Minimal format standards must be met, as defined below. If the paper is in English, **English grammar, idiom and spelling must be up to a standard level. Always include a strong introduction paragraph-declare what you intend to show the reader-and conclusion paragraph.** Qualities valued include clarity, succinctness, and precision.

- 1" margins top, bottom and sides
- Double-space (= 3 vertical lines per inch, 27 lines per page)
- 12-point standard.
- Indent paragraphs 5 spaces or 0.6 inch (Thesis standard is 5/8 inch)
- No extra line-feed between paragraphs (Format-Paragraph-Space After)
- Underline section headings
- Staple; no paperclips, folders, or fanfold
- Page numbers
- Title page is preferred. Any paper sent by email **must** include a title page.

10% of the grades on the typed papers will be Form, that is, conformity to the above standards. (Our purpose is to motivate all Seminary students to present work that consistently looks as good as its content is.)

Attendance

Due to the concentrated nature of the course work, **only one absence is acceptable** and this has to be cleared with the instructor. Absences have to be made up.

Grading Scale:

A+	A	A-
99-100%	95-98%	94-93%
B+	B	B-
92-91%	90-88%	87-86%
C+	C	C-
85-84%	83-81%	80-79%
D+	D	D-
78-77%	76-74%	73-70%

Course Objectives

Knowledge: The student will:

1. Become aware of the Biblical theology of emotions
2. Become aware of how the process of redemption affects our emotional life
3. Attain an understanding of principles of a healthy spirituality
4. Develop some awareness of movements and techniques in the spiritual life
5. Have the outline and details for an effective personal ministry of discipleship

Emotion: The student will:

1. Be motivated to make her or his emotional life a key spiritual issue
2. Appreciate the need for effective and healthy emotions
3. Become committed to a spiritual ministry as part of his/her professional life

Skill: The student will:

1. Develop skill in emotional management
2. Develop skill in effective communication
3. Develop skill at using the Bible in counseling
4. Develop skill at presenting practical applications of Biblical texts

LECTURES & VIDEO LECTURES

Watch Videos according to this schedule

**Zoom meeting

Section 1. Theology of Emotions		
#	Date	Lecture
1	April 10, 10-11:30 AM **	Zoom - Initial Class Meeting
2	April 17	I. The Source of Our Emotions a. A Reflection of God in Physical Creation b. An Application of Soteriology II. What are our Emotions? III. The Significance of Our Emotions
3	April 24 Class Meeting 10-11:30 AM**	IV. The Emotions of God a. Overview b. Anger and His joy with His Son's suffering V. The Emotions of Christ VI. The Holy Spirit - An Emotional Presence
4	May 8	VII. Dealing with Emotions. VIII. Emotions and the Self.
5	May 15	IX. Emotions and the Unconscious life. X. The Imagination and Our Emotions. a. Man- the Weaver b. And the Potter
6	May 22 Class Meeting 10-11:30 AM**	XI. How to Minister to our Emotions
7	May 29	XII. The Goal of our Emotional Life—Blessedness
8	June 5 Class Meeting 10-11:30 AM**	XIII. Appendix 1. Psychology and the Bible-An Approach.
Section 2.		
9	June 12	XIV. Tears to Diamonds: An Application of the Doctrine of Salvation and a. the development of a Theology of Suffering
10	June 19 10-11:30 AM**	Last Class Meeting

Assignments

Either do assignment I or Assignment II.

I. Counselee Handouts and Reflection Studies:

Often persons in counseling who are Christians either have a superficial knowledge of the Bible or a non-integrated knowledge of the Bible. Christian counselors and counselees both need a resource to help them to help the counselee to understand how the Bible addresses their issues and how to integrate these truths into their lives.

Each hand out should have a one page introduction as to what is the nature of the issue being addressed, and what is the portion of Scripture that addresses that issue. The second page will then give an overview of the context of that Scripture. The next two pages will be a guided study asking for answers to questions. The final page will explain how the truths from the study apply to the presenting issues.

This should have these parts:

1. What is the presenting issue?
2. What is the biblical context addressing that issue?
3. What portion of Scripture should be studied?
4. What does the person need in order to understand the context?
5. What questions will lead the person to understand the context?
6. What else does the person need to know from a spiritual and psychological standpoint?
7. What is the summary reflection that the person needs to consider?

The Counselee Handouts will be on various subjects such as:

- a. An evil conscience Hebrews 10:22
- b. Does the Unconscious Exist? 2 Corinthians
- c. Do you feel loved? Romans 5:8
- d. Handling Anxiety Philippians 4
- e. Handling Anxiety Matthew
- f. Dealing with a Threatening World Matthew 6
- g. Learning how God sees us Galatians 3:23
- h. Enjoying your Gender Genesis 1 and 2
- i. Setting the Heart Free of Guilt Romans 3
- j. Setting the Heart Free of Worthlessness Romans 5
- k. Setting the Heart Free of Shame Romans 6
- l. God as a Good "Dad"
- m. The Bible and Alcoholism
- n. Addiction and Spirituality
- o. Depression
- p. Anger
- q. The Husband's Role
- r. The Wife's Role
- s. Divorce
- t. Grief
- u. Fantasy, sexual or otherwise
- v. Categories of wholeness
- w. Change
- x. _____

- y. _____
z. _____

Each student should pick two to do.

Develop two sets of handouts

Sample of a handout due at end of April

Finished work due on May

II. Analysis of Sermon on the Mount and Galatians 5

List by chapter and verse each word or phrase in the Sermon on the Mount that is an emotion or desire, or implies emotion and desire (such as the word “heart”). Also chart what emotional topics or desires are addressed and how often. This material should be one page in length. Then, analyze how significant are these issues in the Sermon in a three page paper.

List by chapter and verse each word or phrase in Galatians 5 that is an emotion or desire, or implies emotion and desire. Also chart what emotional topics or desires are addressed and how often. This material should be one page in length. Then, analyze how significant are these issues in chapter 5 in a three page paper.

III. Books to be Read and Written.

David Eckman, Becoming Who God Intended Pleasanton, California: BWGI Publishers, 2005.

Write a three page paper based on the reading as a response to the following questions:

1. What are your thoughts on Part one of the book dealing with the centrality of emotions in the Christian life? Does that reflect your experience in church and in your spiritual life?
2. What are your thoughts on the Part two of the book and the power of pictures? Does that emphasis appear in your church and is it part of how you spiritually “see” in your spiritual life?
3. What are your thoughts on the Part three of the book and the love from the Trinity? Do I have a sense of emotional love and affection from God the Father and the Son? If not, why not?

David Eckman, Theology of Emotions Workbook, Pleasanton, California: BWGI Ministries, 2021.

Write a three page paper based on the reading as a response to the following questions:

1. Is my identification with Christ at the center of my Christian experience? If not, why not?
2. Is my identification with Christ the basis of my relationship to God and to sin?
3. Do I have an emotional and “mystical sense” of being joined to Christ? Does this matter to God and should it matter to me?

Due: June

(10 hours)

IV. Other Readings.

B.B. Warfield’s “The Emotional Life of our Lord” from The Person and Work of Christ

David Eckman, The Psychology of The Christian Life as Pictured in The Social Institutions of Galatians: With an Excursus. Available as a file download.

V. Reflection Paper on your Emotional Life

Write a five page paper on your thoughts about your own emotional life and the teaching on emotions in the churches you have attended (two pages). Further, share specific insights from the course material that have occurred to you or specific disagreements you have with the material (three pages)

Grade:

30% of the grade will be on the handouts or papers on the Sermon on the Mount and Galatians

10% on class participation

- The student should send in one question before each class meets
- The student should be present and participating

30% on the response paper to Becoming Who God intended

30% on your reflection paper

Late papers or projects will be marked down a letter grade for each late week.

All papers due at end of the course, but in the class meetings we will discuss the content of Becoming Who God Intended at the last class meeting in April and the Theology of Emotions Workbook at the last class at the end of May.