

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PTH 640 Sexual Integrity in Ministry

Cheryl A. Taylor, D. Min.
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Jan. 9, 2:00-5:00p.m. and 6:00-10:00p.m.
Jan. 10, 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m.

Spring 2004
1 Hour

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an opportunity for focused reflection on contemporary issues surrounding sexual integrity and what ministers can do to maintain integrity in their personal lives, in their ministry organizations, and among those they serve. The goal of this course is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the unique challenges facing ministers, as well as an appreciation of the potential ministry opportunities available for those desiring to take a proactive stance in addressing this critical area of concern.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The seminar-style course is an arena for learning and growth of several kinds:

Cognitive development:

- To gain an increased awareness of the problem of ministerial/lay sexual misconduct
- To inform ministers of societal and vocational factors contributing to the problem
- To educate ministers in how to recognize and respond properly to the warning signs
- To encourage ministers how to respond appropriately when sexual misconduct occurs

Theological reflection:

- To hear contemporary culture posing critical life concerns, and to exercise reflective skills needed to begin the process of developing meaningful answers
- To consider a Biblical approach to difficult issues surrounding sexual integrity

Ministry enhancement:

- To be better prepared with the attitudes and skills necessary to proactively address sexual integrity in ministry
- To assist ministers in the prevention of impropriety in their personal lives, their ministry organizations, and among those they serve
- To equip ministers with a plethora of resources for addressing specific issues related to promoting sexual integrity in ministry.

METHODOLOGY

This course will utilize a wide variety of learning methods including guest presentations and phone interviews, video, interactive exercises, and selected reading. While the course will have a strong cognitive component, it is largely intended to be personal and reflective in nature.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Grenz, Stanley J. *Betrayal of Trust: Confronting and Preventing Clergy Sexual Misconduct*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

RECOMMENDED READING

Arterburn, Stephen, and Fred Stoeker. *Every Man's Battle: Strategies for Victory in the Real World of Sexual Temptation*. Colorado Springs: WaterBrook Press, 2002.

Harley, Willard F., Jr. *His Needs, Her Needs*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1994.

Hayes, Steve. *Safe and Sound: Protecting Personal and Ministry Relationships*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002.

COURSE OUTLINE

Part 1: Pursuing Personal Sexual Integrity

Becoming sensitive to personal vulnerability and sexual temptation:

Introduction: Extent and Nature of the Problem of Ministerial Sexual Misconduct

Interview with fallen minister

Factors Behind the Problem (Societal/vocational)

Recognizing the Warning Signs

Prevention Steps

Interview w/Director of Ministerial Enrichment for the AG

Part 2: Pursuing Professional Sexual Integrity

Becoming Proactive in addressing sexual integrity challenges in ministry:

Helping People Overcome Internet Pornography

Sexual Integrity Issues for Chaplains

Singles and Sexuality

Masturbation

Young Adult Ministry and Oral Sex

The Church's Response to Homosexuality

General Prevention Measures for Churches

Legal Issues: Screening, Sexual Harassment, etc.

Part 3: Responding Properly To Sexual Misconduct

What to do if it happens to you

What to do if it happens to your spouse

What to do if it happens to your leader

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Class Attendance:* Students are expect to attend all class sessions and be active participants in all interviews, discussions, activities, etc.
2. *Reading Requirement:* Read the required text in its entirety and prepare a two page typewritten "Reflective Reading Report." In this report you are to state whether or not you have completed the reading in its entirety, and discuss 3-4 of the most important ideas or challenges you picked up from the book and how they relate to your personal life and/or ministry context. (This is not a review or summary outline of the book's main points, but a personal reflection on specific insights that were significant for you personally, and why.)
Due: April 10, 2004.
3. *Final Project.* Each student will design a final project that assists them in integrating materials from the course with their personal life and/or ministry context. Final project options include:
 - *Personal growth plan:* Discuss in practical terms some of the ways the course materials can be implemented into your own life. This 8-10 page growth plan should include specific practical steps that will be taken.
 - *Ministry growth plan:* Discuss in practical terms some of the ways the course materials can be implemented into your own ministry context. This 8-10 page growth plan should include specific practical steps that will be taken.
 - *Marriage Enrichment:* Take proactive steps to enhance your marriage. This may involve attending a marriage enrichment seminar, engage in private marriage counseling, etc. Student should write an 8-10 page reflection paper on their experience.
 - *Sermons/Messages:* using insights gained from the course, write two messages designed to promote sexual integrity within the body of Christ within your ministry context.
 - *Internet Project:* research helpful resources on the Internet to assist individuals struggling with sexual temptation or attempting to maintaining sexual integrity. Prepare an 8-10 page annotated bibliography on your findings of the top 20 most helpful sites for your ministry context.
 - *Research paper:* prepare a 10-12 page paper on some aspect of sexual integrity in ministry that would be helpful to you.
 - *Self-designed project:* Participants have the option of proposing a customized post-session project. The proposal must be submitted in written form, and the professor's permission must be secured in advance.

Final project is due: April 10, 2004.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Class Participation

15%

Reading of Textbook/Reading Reflection	35%
Final Project	<u>50%</u>
	100%

Note: Late work will be penalized.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biblical Theology of Marriage and Sex

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- Allender, Dan B., and Tremper Longman III. *Intimate Allies: Rediscovering God's Design for Marriage and Becoming Soul Mates for Life*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1995.
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"Zogby Survey Reveals a Growing Percentage of Those Seeking Sexual Fulfillment on

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SPECIFIC DATA

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