

PT 503: Theology of Biblical Disciple-making

Shepherds Theological Seminary

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Office hours: M-F 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the principles of discipleship and disciple-making as presented in the New Testament. Descriptions of the disciple of Christ are analyzed along with the methodologies of Jesus and the Apostle Paul. Practical methods of disciple-making are discussed and evaluated along with problems and challenges. Students form a practical model of disciple-making that may be implemented in a local church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

- Offer a definition and description of "disciple" and "disciple-making" that is consistent with the picture portrayed in the New Testament.
- List current models offered on the meaning of "disciple" and "discipleship" and critique them for strengths or weaknesses.
- Describe how discipleship is depicted in the Epistles.
- Outline the basic stages in Jesus' disciple-making model.
- Offer reasons why disciple-making is a weakness in the current typical evangelical church.
- Develop and provide a practical model of disciple-making that may be employed in his or her local church. This will consist of the biblical rationale for disciple-making as well as appropriate definitions and descriptions. It will address how disciple-makers will be trained and what their expectations entail. It will also describe the content or curriculum of learning to be used by disciple-makers in the model. It will also address how the model is to be evaluated when implemented.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Michael J. Wilkins, *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship* (1992, Zondervan)

Greg Ogden, *Transforming Discipleship* (2003, InterVarsity Press)

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance and thoughtful participation at every class lecture.
- Completion of all assignments at their designated due date.
- Timely correspondence with the instructor about questions, absences, and any unforeseen challenges to completing the course requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Complete reading of *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship* with a 1-2 page evaluative paper that discusses one idea or concept presented in the text that the student found significant (noteworthy, interesting, crucial) or one idea or concept that the student strongly disagreed with (clear reasons for objections included).

Due date: _____

- Complete reading of *Transforming Discipleship* with a 1-2 page evaluative paper that discusses one idea or concept presented in the text that the student found significant (noteworthy, interesting, crucial) or one idea or concept that the student strongly disagreed with (clear reasons for objections included).

Due date: _____

- **Project Paper.** The student will submit a detailed plan of discipleship that may be implemented in a local church. According to the student's choice, the plan may entail the entire congregation or a subset of it (children, youth, college, men, women, etc.). The plan includes clear goals and objectives and methods of implementation and evaluation. The discipleship project paper will be 15-20 pages in length. *More details will be given by the instructor during class time.*

Due date: _____

All papers will adhere to the following guidelines: typed, double-spaced, 12-pt font, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, page numbers at center bottom (except title page), title page, table of contents, footnotes and bibliography (if applicable) conforming to Turabian style. Reading evaluation papers (Wilkins, Ogden) do not need a title page and may be stapled. Project paper must be bound (not stapled) in a suitable manner.

Grading:

Text reading and evaluative paper 1:	20%
Text reading and evaluative paper 2:	20%
Final Test:	10%
Project Paper:	50%
	100%