



TYNDALE
INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES CENTRE

Course Title: Doing Biblical Theology in a Multicultural World

Course Instructor: Rev. McTair H. Wall, MTh

I. Course Description

This course will explore biblical theology in a multicultural world. The urban Canadian Church is now multicultural. This means that we cannot minister effectively in this multicultural context without understanding the mentality and worldviews of those to whom we minister. We also need to learn to package the basic truths of the Gospel in a language that those in our Churches and in our neighbourhoods can easily understand. According to the Book of Acts, when the first Christians preached to Jewish people, they talked about how God was at work in OT history. When they talked to non-Jews, they packaged their message differently, focusing on God as Creator, Provider, Sustainer and Judge. This course will seek to understand how we can better contextualize the basic doctrines of Scriptures in forms that speak more powerfully to those to whom we minister, while at the same time remaining faithful to Scripture. To do this, we will use Muller three-lens model that focuses on shame, guilt and fear.

II. Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Formulate the need and nature for a contextual theology
- Articulate a basic model for doing theology that is biblically faithful and culturally relevant
- Begin to formulate the basic doctrines of the Christian faith from a worldview and cultural perspective
- Better connect Christian doctrine to their cultural and ministry context

III. Course Requirements

A. Readings Assignments (Textbooks)

- Gilbert Belizikian, *Christianity 101: Your Guide to Eight Christian Beliefs*, Zondervan, 1993.
- Ronald Muller, *Honour and Shame: Unlocking the Door*, Xlibris, 2000 (available from instructor in PDF format for \$5)

B. Suggested Readings

Article on "Systematic Theology" in William Dyrness, Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen et al, *Global Dictionary of Theology*, Downers Grove, IVP, 2008, p???

William A. Dyrness, *Invitation to Cross-Cultural Theology*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1992.

Timothy TENNENT, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2007.

C. Assignments and Grading

1. **Reading:** Each student will read the selected sections of Muller and Belizikian and attest to having done the reading assignment (20% of final grade)

2. **Synthesis:** Each student will do a two-page summary of Muller's model (15% of final grade)

3. **In-class presentation:** Each student will present a 10 min paper to a small group on a selected doctrine that he or she is attempting to contextualize using Muller's model. A sign-up sheet will be provided in the first class (25% of final grade)

4. **Reflection Paper:** Each student will write a five-page reflexion paper on the doctrine he tried to contextualize, after having taken into account the remarks of his small group discussions (30% of final grade)

5. Class **presence and participation** (10% of final grade)

D. General Guidelines for the Submission of Work

- Keep your assignments within the page range provided. Papers that go over or under the range will be deducted grades.
- Use double space for all your written assignments.
- Please add a title page, references and a bibliography.

* Use gender inclusive language and Scripture. For example, "Humanity is made in the image of God" vs. "Mankind is made in the image of God."

IV. Summary of Assignments, Due dates and Grading

Assignment	Due Date	Grading
Reading	3 rd /7 th Sessions	20%
Summary of Muller's Model	2 nd Session	15%
In-class Presentation	According to choice	25%
Reflection Paper	Last date of course	30%
Presence/Participation	Each session	10%

V. Outline of course (with dates)

Session 1 (21 Jan): The Need for a contextual approach to theology

Session 2 (28 Jan): Doctrine of Revelation

Session 3 (4 Feb): Doctrine of God

Session 4 (11 Feb): Doctrine of Christ

Session 5 (18 Feb): Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

Session 6 (25 Feb): Doctrine of Humanity/Salvation

Session 7 (3 Mar): Doctrine of the Church/End Times
Session 8 (10 Mar): Putting it all together