

Freedom School of Ministry
Spiritual Identities – Part 2
Course Syllabus

Instructor: John Pollock

Location: online

Office hours: by appointment only

Cell Phone: (757) 848-8052

Email: dub.pollock@gmail.com

Communications Policy

The quickest way to contact me is by text message. You may also send an email for less urgent needs.

Course Description

Spiritual Identities – Part 2 (SI2) will continue the discussion of the Trinity. Specifically, this course will highlight the Person of the Holy Spirit and focus on His place within the Trinity. Additionally, SI2 will introduce Humanity's place in relation to the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the key to Humanity's inclusion within the Godhead. The Holy Spirit also brings the love of Father and Son into the hearts of Humanity so that the earth may be filled with the love of God. SI2 will challenge the student to engage with specific Scriptures to discover the unique character of the Holy Spirit. Scriptures highlighting the struggles and redemption of Humanity will also find a place in this course. By the end of Week 8, the student should see the interconnectedness between the Triune God and Humanity while inviting the student to become the expression of God in the world.

Course Learning Outcomes

- 1) Begin to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in the Trinity.
- 2) Begin to understand the struggle and redemption of Humanity and the invitation to enjoy the relationship of the Triune God.
- 3) Find illuminating ideas about the Holy Spirit and Humanity through the selected Scriptures and readings.
- 4) Articulate understanding of SI2 concepts through two written assignments – one focuses on the Holy Spirit, and the second focuses on Humanity in relation to the Godhead.
- 5) Leave the course feeling encouraged to bring the love of the Trinity to the world.

Required Resources

- 1) The Bible

- a. Students should choose a word-for-word (e.g., NASB, KJV, ESV) or thought-for-thought (e.g., NIV, NCV, NLT) as the primary translation, using a paraphrase (GNT, CEV, MSG) as a reference and/or secondary translation. See this link for further information: <http://www.biblereviewer.com/bible-translation-comparison/>
- 2) *Delighting in the Trinity* (2012) by Michael Reeves
- a. This book should have been purchased and started in Spiritual Identities – Part 1 (SI1).
 - b. SI2 will continue and complete this book.

Additional Resources

- 1) Selections from *Theology for the Community of God* (2000) by Stanley Grenz.
 - a. A PDF of specific chapters has been included in the Dashboard.
 - b. Students are welcome to purchase this book (as it contains a wealth of knowledge on Trinitarian theology) but are not required to buy it as we will only be referencing a small portion of the text.

Assignments

- 1) ***Read, study, and reflect upon the required Scripture readings and Additional readings.***
 - a. SI2 will focus on two sections of Scripture in each half of the course.
 - i. Weeks 1-4: **John 14-17**
 1. This section of John focuses on the Person of the Holy Spirit and His work in the Trinity and the lives of believers.
 2. We get a good look at His work and importance through these chapters.
 - ii. Weeks 5-8: **Romans 5-8**
 1. This section of Romans brings the student into conversation with the struggle of Humanity and the redemption provided in Christ.
 2. These chapters also reveal the place of the Holy Spirit in the work of holiness and relationship to God.

- b. The student must come to the Zoom session prepared to discuss the Scripture passages.
 - i. Each week, the student will submit a few sentences on the assigned reading (see Course Schedule) PRIOR TO the weekly Zoom session (Thursday @ 6:30 PM, EST).
 - ii. This submission should highlight a theme or idea within the assigned Scripture passage to include questions or comments about the text.
 - iii. For example, if a student found something interesting in John 17:1-3, the submission could look like this:

Passage: John 17:1-3

What stood out to me was...

The context of the passage seems to be...

I think the passage means...

It is important to my development because...

- c. It is also acceptable for the student to submit a few sentences drawn from the Additional Readings (*Delighting in the Trinity* or *Theology for the Community of God*).
 - i. This submission can be made IN PLACE OF the Scripture submission – students are not required (but allowed) to do both types of submissions each week.
 - ii. If the student selects this option, the submission could look like this:

Selection: *Delighting in the Trinity* pages 100-101

What stood out to me was...

The context of the passage seems to be...

I think the author means...

It is important to my development because...

d. Each week, the student must take time to submit a few sentences of thought PRIOR TO the weekly Zoom session.

- i. These ideas are united with those of other students to formulate the discussion content for the Zoom session each week.

2) *Participate in online interaction via Zoom.*

- a. Zoom sessions will allow the students and instructor to discuss the Scripture passages together.
- b. In these sessions, students may also ask questions about assignments and/or course flow, discuss an insight from readings relevant to the course, request live prayer with other classmates, and talk through the practical issues surrounding the text.
- c. Students are required to attend these sessions unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. The goal of these sessions is to create a checkpoint throughout the course to encourage and equip the student for continued success.

3) *Prepare and submit TWO writing assignments.*

- a. In addition to *discussing* the Person of the Holy Spirit and the place of Humanity, each student should *present* their findings.
- b. As each section of material unfolds in the two halves of the course, students should begin thinking about and taking notes on possible essay topics.
 - i. **The first essay, submitted at the end of Week 4, will cover the Holy Spirit.**
 - ii. **The second essay, submitted at the end of Week 8, will cover Humanity.**
- c. Each paper should be between 500 – 750 words.
 - i. Each submission should be double-spaced in size 12, Times New Roman font.
 - ii. **A suitably formatted sample is at the end of this syllabus.**

- iii. If you decide to cite materials from the Additional resources, use end-of-sentence citations containing the author's name and the page number.
 - 1. (Grenz, 101).
- iv. When you cite Scripture passages, cite them at the end of the sentence with the selected translation abbreviation as follows:
 - 1. (John 17:1, NKJV).
- d. Each essay should follow a format like what is outlined here:
 - i. Introduction: Write out an Introductory Scripture Passage to draw attention and then explain what the reader should expect as the paper unfolds.
 - 1. Why write about this Scripture (or group of Scriptures if a captivating theme was discovered)?
 - 2. What do you intend to reveal during the paper?
 - ii. Main Body Content: Break out 1 – 3 ideas that your Scripture passage(s) revealed during the study.
 - 1. What is the passage saying?
 - 2. What is the context of the passage?
 - 3. Why should it matter to the reader?
 - iii. Conclusion: Restate the Scripture (or a different Scripture that draws out the same point) and emphasize why this essay should matter to the reader.
 - 1. How can this revelation be applied in life?
 - 2. How can it draw the reader deeper into an appreciation for the Trinity or Humanity's place concerning the Godhead?
- e. Students can take notes from the Zoom session discussions, underline memorable portions of the Additional Readings, reference commentaries, and use resources such as Blue Letter Bible to dig into the meaning of words in the text.

- i. Research can emerge in the form of sermons on a similar topic, books that dive into the passage, word studies on Blue Letter Bible, or the use of other Bible software.
- ii. Free Online Commentaries can be found with a simple Google search or by viewing these links:
 1. <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/>
 2. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>
 3. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/index.cfm>

Method of Evaluating Student Performance

Assignments	Points Possible	Total Weight
Weekly Content Submission PRIOR TO Zoom Sessions	1 each (7 total)	25%
Zoom Participation (8 Zoom Sessions)	1 each (8 total)	25%
Writing Assignments (Due in Weeks 4 and 8)	1 each (2 total)	50%
Total	17	100%

Course Schedule (All times are Eastern Standard Time)

Week	Activities	Assignments	Due Dates
1 6/23-6/29	<u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 6/23 @ 6:30 EST) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review syllabus and discuss John 13-14 together <u>Post-Zoom Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read John 14 again • Read and study John 15 • Read Ch. 13 of <i>Theology for the Community of God</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading • Begin considering a Holy Spirit essay topic based on our readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on John 15 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 6/30. • First writing assignment due in Week 4.
2 6/30-7/6	<u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 6/30 @ 6:30 EST): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss John 15 <u>Post-Zoom Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and study John 16 • Read Ch. 4 of <i>Delighting in the Trinity</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading • Continue considering a Holy Spirit topic for the essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on John 16 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 7/7. • First writing assignment due in Week 4.

<p>3 7/7-7/13</p>	<p><u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 7/7 @ 6:30 EST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss John 16 <p><u>Post-Zoom Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and study John 17 • Read Ch. 5 of <i>Delighting in the Trinity</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading • Come to a decision on a Holy Spirit topic for the essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on John 17 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 7/14. • First writing assignment due in Week 4.
<p>4 7/14-7/20</p>	<p><u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 7/14 @ 6:30 EST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss John 17 • Discuss the essay requirements <p><u>Post-Zoom Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose essay • Read and study Romans 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose the first essay • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay due BEFORE Zoom session on 7/21 • Comments on Romans 5 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 7/21.
<p>5 7/21-7/27</p>	<p><u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 7/21 @ 6:30 EST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Romans 5 <p><u>Post-Zoom Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and study Romans 6 • Read the selection of Ch. 6 of <i>Theology for the Community of God</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading • Begin considering a Humanity essay topic based on our readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Romans 6 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 7/28. • Second writing assignment due in Week 8.
<p>6 7/28-8/3</p>	<p><u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 7/28 @ 6:30 EST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Romans 6 <p><u>Post-Zoom Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and study Romans 7 • Read Ch. 7 of <i>Theology for the Community of God</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading • Continue considering a Humanity essay topic based on our readings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Romans 7 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 8/4. • Second writing assignment due in Week 8.
<p>7 8/4-8/10</p>	<p><u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 8/4 @ 6:30 EST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Romans 7 <p><u>Post-Zoom Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and study Romans 8 • Read Conclusion of <i>Delighting in the Trinity</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on Scripture and/or Additional Reading • Come to a decision on a Humanity topic for the essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Romans 8 (or Additional Reading) due before Zoom Session on 8/11. • Second writing assignment due in Week 8.

8 8/11- 8/17	<u>Zoom Session</u> (Thur. 8/11 @ 6:30 EST): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Romans 8 • Discuss the essay requirements <u>Post-Zoom Activities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose the second essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay due by 8/17
--------------------	---	---	--

Suggested Weekly Assignment Progression

Thursday’s Zoom session ends the previous week and begins the next week.

Thursday night/Friday – Begin reading the assigned Scripture passage for the following Zoom session

Friday/Saturday – Read 10 pages of the Additional Reading and take notes or underline key ideas

Saturday/Sunday – Read the assigned Scripture passage again, looking closely for key ideas

Sunday/Monday – Read another 10 pages of the Additional Reading and take notes or underline key ideas

Monday/Tuesday – Use study tools (such as Blue Letter Bible or a free commentary) to examine the assigned Scripture passage closely, taking notes as you go

Tuesday/Wednesday – Finish the Additional Reading and take notes or underline key ideas

Wednesday/Thursday – Write your “Few Sentences” assignment and submit it in preparation for the next Zoom session

Name

Assignment Due Date

Course Name

Title (Bold and Centered)

Introduction (Italics and Centered)

Introductory Passage:

Content...

Sub-Title of First Point (Italics and Centered)

Content...

Sub-Title of Second/Third Point – As Needed (Italics and Centered)

Content...

Conclusion (Italics and Centered)

Content...