

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40280

87570 Guilt, Shame, and Forgiveness

Fall, 2007

Professor: Eric L. Johnson, Ph.D.

I. Seminar Description

This seminar will explore the pastoral theology and counseling theory of guilt and shame and its origins in human sin. Therapeutic issues grounded in divine forgiveness will be examined. There will be an exploration of theoretical, research, and therapeutic dimensions of these subjects, from biblical, dogmatic, historical, and psychological perspectives.

II. Seminar Objectives

This seminar provides opportunities for you:

1. To understand the nature of sin according to biblical teaching.
2. To understand the major psychological outcomes of sin, especially shame and guilt.
3. To examine contemporary research on evil, shame, and guilt.
4. To think how sin-language is related to psychopathology language.
5. To see how sin-language is related to clinical work.
6. To further develop one's research and writing skills.

III. Seminar Reading

There are eight textbooks for this seminar, and they are available in the bookstore.

Allender, D., & Longman, III, T. (2007). *Breaking the idols of the heart*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Baumeister, R. (1997). *Evil: Inside human violence and cruelty*. New York: W.W. Freeman.

Blocher, H. (2000). *Original sin*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity.

Carson, D.A. (????). *The cross and Christian ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Evans, C. S. (1990). *Christian psychology of Soren Kierkegaard*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.

Kierkegaard, S. *The sickness unto death*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Ortland, R. (2003). *Whoredom*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Plantinga, C. (1995). *Not the way it's supposed to be*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Tangney, J.P., & Dearing, R.L. (2002). *Shame and guilt*. New York: Guilford.

Articles/chapters on reserve at the library:

Adams, J. Chapter on sin.

Johnson, E.J. (1987). Sin, weakness, and psychopathology. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 15, 218-226.

Powlison, D. The works of the flesh

Powlison, D. Idols of the heart.

Watson, P.J., Morris, R.J., Loy, T., Hamrick, M.B., & Grizzle, S. (2007). Beliefs about Sin: Adaptive Implications in Relationships with Religious Orientation, Self-Esteem, and Measures of the

IV. Seminar Requirements

1) **Response papers.** Each week students will turn in a 1 ½ to 2-page (double-spaced) summary/reflection paper on that week's readings. Three times in the semester, this assignment will not have to be completed. For a total of 10 papers.

2) **Essay Paper.** Research some aspect of human psychopathology. May investigate a specific sin or vice (one of the seven deadly sins, a specific sinful behavior), the nature of indwelling sin or the flesh, or a psychopathological condition (depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, a particular personality disorder). Begin with a discussion of the disorder; spend some time examining the impact of biological, social, psychological, ethical, and spiritual dynamics; and conclude with a discussion of how the gospel can positively impact this disorder. This will be a 20-page paper, written for possible publication, with multiple references.

3) **Presentation.** Each student will lead the class in an overview of one week's reading and a discussion of its more interesting or controversial material.

Papers must be written in proper English, using APA style. Points will be docked for grammatical, typographical, and spelling errors.

V. Grading

The individual assignments will be graded as follows:

- 10% Attendance and participation in class
- 10% Classroom presentation/discussion
- 40% Weekly response papers
- 40% Essay paper

In order to ensure full class participation, any student with a disabling condition requiring special accommodations (e.g. tape recorders, special adaptive equipment, special note-taking or test-taking needs) is strongly encouraged to contact the professor at the beginning of the seminar.

VI. Class Schedule

Week #1	I. Introduction to Class and Instructor
Aug 14	II. Overview of the Redemptive-Historical model of human nature -Fusing the narratives (metanarrative and personal narrative)
	III. Created Human Nature
	IV. Multiple Orders of Human Nature Discourse
Week #2	V. Original Sin
Aug 21	Blocher, <i>Original Sin</i>
Week #3	VI. The Nature of Sin
Aug 28	Plantinga, <i>Not the Way It's Supposed to Be</i> , Ch. 1-5
Week #4	Cont'd
Sep 4	Plantinga, <i>Not the Way It's Supposed to Be</i> , Ch. 6-10

- Week #5** VII. Special Biblical Studies
 Sep 11 A. Idolatry
 Powlison, *Idols of the Heart*
 Allender & Longman, *Breaking the Idols of the Heart*
- Week # 6** B. Whoredom
 Sep 18 Ortland, *Whoredom*
- Week #7** IX. Kierkegaard's Approach to Sin
 Sep 25 Evans

READING WEEK Oct 2

- Week #8** Cont'd
 Oct 9 Kierkegaard, *The Sickness Unto Death*
- Week #9** VIII. Biblical Counseling and Sin
 Oct 16 Adams
 Powlison, *Works of the Flesh, Our Theory of Motivation*
- Week #10** X. Three Types of Psychopathology
 Oct 23 Johnson, "Sin, Weakness, and Psychopathology"
 XI. A Christian Empirical View of Evil
 Watson, et al. "Beliefs about sin..."
- Week #11** XII. A Secular Empirical View of Evil
 Oct 30 Baumeister, *Evil: Inside Human Violence and Cruelty*
- Week #12** XIII. Research on the Psychological Consequences of Sin
 Nov 6 Tangney & Dearing, *Shame & Guilt*
- Final Exam** XIV. The Cross and Sin
 Carson, *The Cross and Christian Ministry*
 Final Paper due