



MIN 325 - 3 credits

# Your Theology of Youth Ministry

## Course Description

The foundation of your youth ministry must be a well-defined theology / philosophy that God has given you about the purpose, goals and methodologies of your youth ministry. Without such a support, you will be an aimless reactor, recreating the experiences of your youth, copying the latest fad, or frantically trying to keep control of unfocused youthful energy.

In this course you will explore various views of what youth ministry should be. You will examine your own beliefs in light of these viewpoints, and how those beliefs have been expressed in your ministry. Then you will take time to hear from God, asking Him to show you the theology He wants as the foundation for the ministry He has called you to, and how to express that theology accurately and fully. (NOTE: It is assumed that you are already involved in some aspect of youth ministry.)

Prerequisites: REN103 and LEA103; also recommended is MIN211.

## Course Texts

*Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church* – Mark Senter III, General Editor

*Postmodern Youth Ministry* – Tony Jones

## Course Objectives

- You will contrast four different approaches or theologies of youth ministry with understanding.
- You will quote a verse that supports the theology of each of the four approaches to youth ministry.
- You will examine your youth ministry in light of various theologies to see what beliefs your actions demonstrate.
- You will develop your own theology of youth ministry and a methodology for expressing that theology in practice, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- You will be obedient to the leading of the Lord for your youth ministry.
- You will state the eight ways God comes by means of His Word and people's service, according to Malan Nel.
- You will discuss seven effective practices of youth ministries today, according to Wesley Black, and you will evaluate your youth ministry in light of them.
- You will contrast "modern" and "postmodern" values and belief systems, and evaluate yourself and the youth to whom you minister in light of them.
- You will state at least three values of each system, and discuss how it relates to youth ministry.
- You will explore your call to youth ministry as a call to foreign missions.
- You will explore the values of "reality" and "relevance" and how these values are demonstrated in your youth ministry.
- You will discuss the meanings of "immanence" and "transcendence," and how these characteristics of God are expressed in your youth ministry.
- You will explore the value of "community" for young people and how the church could or should meet this need.
- You will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal any aspects of "the cult of personality," "bait and switch techniques," and other unhealthy practices that may have crept into your youth ministry.
- You will ask the Holy Spirit to show you any ungodly tendencies in your approach to evangelism.
- You will discuss the relationship between salvation and sanctification, and what you and your youth ministry can do to be ministers of God's grace to your young people.
- You will discuss the need for a structured discipling program for young people and new believers.
- You will explore historical and contemporary methodologies of structured discipleship.

- You will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit concerning a discipleship program for your youth.
- You will discuss and defend your hermeneutic and epistemology, and their effect on how you teach the Bible to your young people.

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## Course Requirements

1. Carefully read *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church*, answering the related application and discussion questions found here in your student notebook. NOTE: Most of these are subjective, personal questions, rather than academic knowledge questions. Take the time to ponder, meditate, and journal about them. Don't give one word or one sentence answers. Really think about them and let the Spirit talk to you about them! (Twenty-five percent of your course grade will be based on your answers to these exercises.)
2. Carefully read *Postmodern Youth Ministry*, answering the related application and discussion questions found here in your student notebook. Keep in mind the "Note" from Requirement 1! (Fifteen percent of your course grade will be based on your answers to these exercises.)
3. Earn at least a "B" on the Final Test. (Twenty percent of your course grade will be based on this test.)
4. Submit a paper detailing your theology of youth ministry, as follows:
  - a) According to the book *Gifted to Succeed* by Mark and Patti Virkler, "If we do not offer balanced five-fold ministry, the church will gravitate toward one or another extreme:  
 The Evangelist tends to build a church focused exclusively on winning the lost....  
 The Prophet tends to build a legalistic church.  
 The Teacher tends to build a theological church [primarily focused on discipleship].  
 The Pastor tends to build a social church [primarily focused on relationships].  
 The Apostle [will focus on planting new churches and building] a super-organized church." (p. 174)

The ideals of youth ministry offered in the book *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church* are excellent examples of this tendency. Describe the four views and discuss how they reveal the heart motivation / ministry gift of their advocates.

## Standards for Grading Assignments

As indicated below, "C" or 2.0 level work is considered average. **Leaders are not average people.** You are therefore expected (required) to put forth the effort necessary to demonstrate at least "B" (3.0) level work or higher on all assignments which you submit. Any which do not will be returned to you with input from your instructor on how you can raise your grade to the expected level. **A course grade will not be given until your assignments demonstrate that you have understood the material presented in the course and allowed your life to be transformed by the Spirit and the Word studied** — the requirements for attaining a "B".

Your individual assignments (notebooks, tests, reports) will be graded according to the following standards. These grades will be averaged together to determine your course grade. Remember, CLU is training leaders and leaders are above-average people. Your work will reflect that.

- "D"
  - Indicates barely passing work that is inferior to the average both in quantity and in quality.
  - Manifests a lack of initiative or sense of responsibility or both.
- "C"
  - Average work; either steady work of an acceptable quality, or work of a high quality which is uneven, irregular or fragmentary.
  - May be mechanically or outwardly correct but shows little reflection upon or personal assimilation of the material.
- "B"
  - Intelligently has fulfilled the requirements of this course.
  - Understands the subject matter presented and has applied it to his life in a limited manner but has not really made the truths his own.
- "A"
  - Grasped the material with thoroughness, industry and correctness of detail.
  - Made the material his own by thinking about it and integrating it, using originality, natural ability, and insight.

- b) Discuss your personal giftedness and any ways this has been reflected in your approach to youth ministry in the past.
- c) Spend significant amounts of time in journaling and Bible meditation, seeking the Lord's guidance concerning the general theology of youth ministry He wants you to embrace. In this section of your paper, present the over-arching truths of youth ministry the Lord would want you to build on in your present situation and in every other youth ministry situation He may place you in the future. In fairly general terms, how would this theology be expressed?
- d) Next, spend significant amounts of time in journaling and Bible meditation, seeking the Lord's guidance concerning how He wants the theology He has given you expressed in the situation you are currently in. If you had the authority to shape your youth group, the youth calendar and the

adult leadership according to that theology, what would it look like? Are there any special emphases that the Lord wants you to focus on for this specific position and group of people?

- e) Finally, find out how the Lord wants you to present your theology and its application to the youth ministry oversight board to whom you are responsible. What is your attitude and spirit to be? How are you to respond if there are those who reject what you have to say or who disagree with you? How are you to respond to their acceptance?

If you actually have such a meeting with your board before the completion of this paper, include a description of the meeting and the effects of it.

This paper should be a minimum of ten (10) pages, typed and double-spaced, maximum 12-point font. (Forty percent of your course grade will be based on this paper.)





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## MIN325 Your Theology of Youth Ministry

# Course Schedule

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### Lesson One

#### Assignment to be completed:

Prayerfully read the introductory section of *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church* titled “Of Churches, Youth Groups and Spiritual Readiness” and answer the related Application and Discussion Questions found in Section 3 of this Student Notebook. Most of these are subjective, personal questions, rather than academic knowledge questions. Take the time to ponder, meditate, and journal about them. Don’t give one word or one sentence answers. Really think about them and let the Spirit talk to you about them! Also, most numbered exercises have several questions in them. Unless instructed otherwise in the specific exercise, you are expected to address each question in your answer. They are not given randomly, but are specifically designed to draw you into deeper interaction with the text, the subject matter, your personal experience, and the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

There is not a lot of reading or testing for this course, so a large proportion of your grade will be based on the extent to which you apply yourself to these exercises.

#### Related objectives:

- You will contrast four different approaches or theologies of youth ministry with understanding.
- You will examine your youth ministry in light of various theologies to see what beliefs your actions demonstrate.
- You will develop your own theology of youth ministry and a methodology for expressing that theology in practice, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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### Lesson Two

#### Assignment to be completed:

Prayerfully read “The Inclusive Congregational Approach to Youth Ministry,” all sections, and answer the related questions found in Section 3 of this Student Notebook.

#### Related objectives:

- You will quote a verse that supports the theology of an Inclusive Congregational approach to youth ministry.
- You will describe and evaluate the Inclusive Congregational approach to youth ministry.
- You will seek the Lord concerning any truths in the Inclusive Congregational approach that the Lord wants you to know, receive, embrace and demonstrate.
- You will be obedient to the leading of the Lord for your youth ministry.
- You will state the eight ways God comes by means of His Word and people’s service, according to Malan Nel.