

Institute for Leadership Development

Introduction to a Practical Systematic/Biblical Theology

with
Dr. Jeffrey L. Seif

Course Description

This mini-course/seminar will introduce individuals to “systematic theology” that is both practical and biblical. A “seminar” is defined as “a group of advanced students, meeting regularly and informally, for discussion and/or research.” That stated, we students will: (1) meet, (2) discuss and (3) reflect upon theology proper, and, hopefully, (4) sharpen our theological acumen as a result of our so doing. At the first, particular attention will be given to (1) practical theology itself, followed by (2) an introduction to the church’s historical understanding(s) of the Christian faith’s theological essence, as articulated, authorized and preserved in the “Creed(s).” (We will attend to this on Friday night.) Beyond this, and in conjunction with it on the follow-up Saturday, we will reflect on and deepen and expand their theological understandings of (3) Trinitarian theology, (4) Angelology/Demonology, (5) Soteriology, (6) Ecclesiology, (7) Eschatology and more. Catechetical in nature, the course’s primary purpose is to introduce and ground students in a formal “orthodox” understanding of essential Christian doctrine and to thus enhance their ability to share it with others.

Course Textbook: *Renewal Theology: Systematic Theology from a Charismatic Perspective (Three Volumes in One)* by J. Rodam Williams

About the Instructor

Jeffrey L. Seif was born into a German-Jewish family on 9 November 1955. He was raised in a typical American Jewish household, save the fact that he was sent off to go to school in a Yeshiva—an Orthodox Jewish training school. Though raised with a “traditional” Jewish upbringing, Jeff eventually came to a saving faith in Jesus, subsequent to which he experienced a “call” into vocational Gospel ministry. Jeff eventually went to school to prepare for the ministerial vocation, taking studies at the Moody Bible Institute, Trinity College, the Graduate Theological Foundation and then the theological Seminary at Southern Methodist University, where he took both a master’s degree and doctorate. Jeff served as a missionary with the American Board of Missions to the Jews, and has held pastorates and other ministry posts for well over twenty-five years. Additionally, Jeff is a proud graduate of the North Texas Regional Police Academy, holds an active police commission, serving in the detective division of a Dallas-area department (doing one or two shifts per month), where he also serves as a police chaplain. In addition, Jeff serves as the church-plant pastor and senior pastor of Resurrection Life Church, Midlothian. Dr. Seif’s principal vocation is as the host of “Zola Levitt Presents,” a nationally-syndicated television concern, teaching the faith’s Jewish roots and more. Seif He keeps active, traveling and ministering in various foreign countries and American cities. When not working in his various ministerial capacities, Jeff enjoys running, weight lifting and biking, and his family. Jeff is married to Patricia Lynn Seif, a school counselor/psychologist. They have two extremely cool boys—Jacob (20) and Zachary (17).

Systematic Theology

Systematic Theology in the Context of Theological Education for Ministry

- I. Exp. & **BI** (OT, NT, **Sys.Theo.**) & **Ch. His.** (Gen., Con. Spec.) = TTC
- II. TTC & **U of L** ₁ (Leadership) & **U of L** ₂ (Management) = DMP₁
- III. DMP₁ & **Practicum** (Problem w/Coach) & **Credo** = DMP₂
(Models, Market, Mentors)

“Creed”: Primary Interpretive Framework for Ascertaining Orthodoxy and Orthopraxis

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His Son our Lord. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell, and on the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.”

Systematic Theology

Course Lecture Schedule

Instruction:

On Saturday, we'll consider appropriate biblical texts and use them to begin exploring the following subject areas.

8:30-9:20: Trinitarian Theology

9:30-10:20: Soteriology

10:30-11:20: Ecclesiology

Lunch

12:30-1:20: Angelology, Demonology and Eschatology

1:30-3:30 Mission and Witness