



Introduction to Theology – C104

SPONSORED BY ABC IN/KY & ABC GI

April 10, April 24 and May 8, 2010
9:00am-5:00pm

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Description and Purpose of the Course

This Theology Course will enable you to define what you mean by òtheologyö. You will engage with classmates in discussing doctrines of Christian belief and ways we communicate our faith, and respond to challenges of faith in the twenty-first century.

Two books will help us to do this: (1) An older text by the Dean and Professor of New Testament at the American Baptist seminary I attended. (2) A book by a pastor of our day who takes us in compelling ways in a sweeping exploration of Christian belief so that Jesus can be embraced across the entire Christian horizon. Dr. Robert Webber, former Myers Professor of Ministry at Northern Baptist Seminary, said of A Generous Orthodoxy, òYouöll love it, youöll hate ití youöll never think the same way again!ö

Finally, we will explore some contemporary issues of life, and how we approach them in the light of what we believeóhow we ödo faith.ö

Course Requirements

1. Attend all three sessions
2. Read and be prepared to discuss the two texts
3. Write and hand in the assigned brief papers
4. Be involved in class discussions

Required Texts

1. Christian Beliefs, by Ralph E. Knudsen, Judson Press, Photocopied with permission, and available from ABC IN/KY for the cost of printing & postage.
2. A Generous Orthodoxy, by Brian McLaren, Zondervan, Copyright 2004, Paperback from Cokesbury for \$14.99.

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Required textbooks
- Your favorite translation of the Bible
- Your course notebook
- 2 pens/pencils

April 10, 2010—Session 1

We will introduce ourselves, and share what we hope to learn from this course. We will define what we mean by òtheology.ö We will discuss Knudsen's first five chapters (covering the Bible, God and Jesus Christ), and share some from our brief òWhat I Believeö statements regarding: the Bible, God, and Jesus Christ. We will view a DVD, òThe Case for Christö by Lee Strobel, featuring his investigative skills in understanding the historical accuracy of the Gospels, the claims of Jesus, and Jesus's resurrection from the dead.

Assignments prior to Session 1:

- Read Christian Beliefs by Knudsen
- Read the first 46 pages of A Generous Orthodoxy by McLaren
- Titled òWhat I believeö Write a brief (no more than 1 page) statement on each doctrine about: the Bible, God, and Jesus Christ.

Session One Objectives:

1. Define òTheologyö
2. Define what McLaren means by òGenerous Orthodoxyö
3. Share what you believe by: The Bible, God, and Jesus Christ
4. Review and critique Strobel's òThe Case for Christö

April 24, 2010—Session 2

We will cover the remaining òChristian Beliefsö from Knudsen's book, and Part One of McLaren's book òWhy I am a Christian.ö We will view a second DVD by Lee Strobel, òThe Case For A Creator.ö

Assignments prior to Session 2:

- Write a brief (no more than 1 page) statement on each of the remaining òChristian Beliefsö as presented in Knudsen's book
- Finish reading McLaren's A Generous Orthodoxy

Session Two Objectives:

1. Grow in our ability to express ôWhat I Believeö
2. Share what you like and dislike about McLaren's approach in the first four chapters of his book regarding ôWhy I Am A Christian.
3. Review and critique a second DVD by Lee Strobel, ôThe Case for a Creator,ö tracing his own journey from spiritual skepticism to faith.

May 8, 2010—Session 3

We will discuss McLaren's ôThe kind of Christian I am,ö and consider some contemporary issues theologically. We will view Strobel's third DVD, ôThe Case For Faith.ö

Assignments prior to Session 3:

- Prepare answers to the following questions and be prepared to discuss in class:
 - o What chapters in Part Two of A Generous Orthodoxy interest you most, and why?
 - o Where do you disagree with McLaren?
 - o What do you appreciate most about McLaren?

Session Three Objectives:

1. Students will assist leading the class discussion on Part Two of McLaren's book
2. Students will discuss how they will use some of what they have learned in their own faith journey and church
3. Review and critique Strobel's third DVD, A Case For Faithö
4. Turn in all work due to complete the requirements of this course
5. Complete Evaluation Forms

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

9:00am-10:15am	Session 1
10:15am-10:25am	BREAK
10:25am-11:45am	Session 2
11:45am-12:45pm	LUNCH
12:45pm-1:45pm	Session 3
1:45pm-1:55pm	BREAK
1:55pm-3:15pm	Session 4
3:15pm-3:25pm	BREAK
3:25pm-5:00pm	Session 5

CLASS LOCATION

April 10, April 24, May 8th
First Baptist Church
99 W. Main Street
Greenwood, IN 46142
Baptist Builders Roomô Main Floor