

SOUTH EAST ASIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS INC.

Where is God When I Want to Embrace My Enemy and Overcome Structural Evil?

By Saul Samante D.Min.

General Overview: This course explores the viable outlook, attitude, and response of the church to pressing issues of today - specifically the COVID 19 pandemic leading to the deterioration of human structures. Informed by Miroslav Volf's concept of Exclusion and Embrace, we grapple with dehumanization, alienation, and hopelessness and the role of building humanity as Volf envisions it. Also, this seeks to facilitate the leadership transition to the new normal as the church continues to stay faithful in her Biblical heritage and reimagine itself as the embodiment of eschatological community in Stanley Grenz's parlance.

Objectives: Toward the end of this class, students should be able to:

1. Familiarize, interact and critique Miroslav Volf's framework of peace and reconciliation and its implications to the life and mission of the church.
2. Get acquainted with Stanley Gren'z notion of Christian community's mission and interactions with the world; its nature as a reflection of God's life and the dynamics of the church mirroring the eschatological community of God.
3. Create a viable and vigorous framework on healthy theodicy in the church to address religious and societal issues concerning conflicts and the pursuit of peace and reconciliation. This framework must be biblically rooted and uniquely Filipino.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and Participation.
2. Daily Reading Assignment
3. Three-page (MA level) five-page (D.min level) proposed framework to address church's and societal issues on peacemaking that can readily be applied in your church.
4. Standard research format: single spaced, 12 font size, Times New Roman font face.

Required Readings: (To be distributed by the professor)

Rodrigues, Alex. Miroslav Volf's Thoughts of COVID 19. (Online article, podcast).

Santrac, Aleksandar. The Art of Reconciliation: Forgiving and Remembering Rightly. (online article).

Smedes, Lewis. Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve (A Book review by Frederick and Mary Ann Brussat; online article).

Spencer, Archie. Culture, community and commitments: Stanley J. Grenz on theological method. (Article in PDF form).

Volf, Miroslav and James K.A. Smith. The Justice of Memory, The Grace of Forgetting: A Conversation with Miroslav Volf. (Online article).

Woods, Mark. Miroslav Volf: How I Learned to Forgive my Interrogator. Christianity Today. October 29, 2014. (Online article).

Yevgen, Shatalov. Stanley J. Grenz's communitarian ecclesiology. (Article in PDF form).

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 accessed 19 May 2020.
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https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=13713136003264818809&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&hl=en; accessed 20 May 2020.
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- Valdez, Violet B., and Isabel E. Kenny. "The Challenge of Diversity: Telling the Christian-Muslim Story in Pictures." In *Agenda for Hope: Preserving and Transforming Philippine Identity and Culture*, edited by Pauline Paredes Sicam and Remmon E. Barbaza. Loyola Heights, Quezon City: Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2009.
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