

COURSE SYLLABUS

Adult Ministries in the Church

Course Lecturer: Kenneth O. Gangel, PhD
Former Professor of Christian Education at Dallas Theological Seminary

Course Description

How do adults learn? What are the most successful ways to teach them? This course presents principles of adult education and their application to various adult age levels within the church. Learners explore theories in young, middle, and older adult education, and examine successful ministries to singles, single parents, and families. The course promotes Knowles' andragogical model of adult education, emphasizing such important subjects as how adults learn, how to structure the classroom, and how to facilitate learning.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand a basic biblical theology of adult education.
- Develop a “psychology of adulthood,” especially a grasp of adult learning theories.
- Analyze the characteristics and developmental areas of the three general adult age groups (young, middle, and senior).
- Develop a philosophy of ministering to various sub-groups among the church's adults (e.g., singles, single parents, divorced, ill, and elderly).
- Apply the principles of adult education to church ministry.

Course Lecturer



Kenneth O. Gangel, PhD (1935-2009)

Education:

- Mercy College, LittD
- University of Missouri, PhD
- Concordia Seminary, STM
- Fuller Theological Seminary, MA
- Grace Theological Seminary, MDiv
- Taylor University, BA

Teaching Career:

- Scholar in Residence, Toccoa Falls College (2000-2009)
- Director of Graduate Studies, Toccoa Falls College (1997-2000)
- Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean, Dallas Theological Seminary (1992-1997)
- Chairman and Professor of Christian Education, Dallas Theological Seminary (1982-1992)
- President and Professor, Miami Christian College (1974-1982)
- Professor and Founding Director of the School of Christian Education, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (1970-1974)
- Bible Department Chairman, Registrar, Academic Dean, and Academic Vice President, Calvary Bible College (1960-1969)
- Nearly 50 years of service in higher education

Other Career Highlights:

- Lecturer in more than 1,500 churches worldwide
- Lecturer at more than 40 educational institutions
- Member of various regional boards and national councils
- Editor for the leadership publication *The SEAL* (Seeking Excellence in Administrative Leadership)
- Worker for the Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education in the late 1960s
- Minister, holding various pastorates in the 1950s, 1960s and 1980s
- Voice of “Morning Light,” a daily devotional that aired on more than 100 radio stations across the United States (for over 20 years)

Publications:

- Contributor to or editor of 57 books, including *Fathering Like a Father, Feeding and Leading*, (a book he co-authored with his son), *Christian Education: Its History and Philosophy*, and *Team Leadership in Christian Ministry: Using Multiple Gifts to Build a Unified Vision* (perhaps his best-known work)
- Publisher of hundreds of articles for various education and theological journals, including numerous submissions to *Bibliotheca Sacra*, while submitting hundreds of reviews on various books

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

Gangel, Kenneth O. and James C. Wilhoit. *The Christian Educator’s Handbook on Adult Education*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1998.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

Course Assessment and Requirements

To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.