Introducing Ourselves

Who am I, and how am I unique?

Course is advanced hermeneutics. Define hermeneutics? Science of interpretation. Involve in Seminary study? Exegetical method, how to read and understand text. Valid and valuable- but would have had this in Seminary- will talk about later.

Another aspect in interpretation- how do we understand ourselves. Also part of hermeneutics, probably not taught in hermeneutics course in Seminary. Important since how we read, understand, interpret and relate depends on who we are.
INTERPRETATION

I. Of self (DMin 911)
II. Of our world (DMin 913)
III. Of the source for authority (DMin 911)
IV. Of people of God (DMin 912)
V. Tools for interpretation (DMin 911)

INTERPRETATION

Based on understanding

I. Of ourselves (DMin 911)- Minister and the Word
II. Of our world (DMin 913)- Church in Post-modern Society
III. Of the source for authority (DMin 911)
IV. Of the people of God (Dmin 912)
INTERPRETATION (cont)

- VI. Of leadership (DMin 911, 960, 962)
- VII. Of need for change- of self (DMin 941); of context (DMin 961, 962)

960 Political reality; 961- Organizing for Spiritual Renewal; 962- Leading Profound Change
941- Formational Guidance
1. Personality type

2. What is authority, and where do I understand it to lie

3. Reading a/the Book- exegesis

4. Leadership in light of: who I am, where I see authority lying, Scripture, and what my core values are

5. Ethics- how I make choices in light of my understanding of myself, Scripture and my authority base.
Declaration of Independence

- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal...

- TRUE OR FALSE?
- Biologically?
- Economically?
- Theologically?

How D of I begins, first statement?
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Blatantly false. Why do we say it, where is the equality? Next clause-
Declaration (cont.)

...that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Don’t have same starting/present point- do have same rights to goals and desired end points.
Where shared value and worth from biblical perspective?

Positive- *

Also from another aspect, *- not so positive, but true. G.K. Chesterton, Orthodoxy, 15: “Certain new theologians dispute original sin, which is the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved.”

“If it be true (as it certainly is) that a man can feel exquisite happiness in skinning a cat, then the religious philosopher can only draw one of two deductions. He must either deny the existence of God, as all atheists do; or he must deny the present union between God and man, as all Christians do. The new theologians seem to think that a highly rationalistic solution is to deny the cat [or the postmodernist would deny the wrong in skinning it.]
UNIQUENESS AND GIFTING

- JOHN 3:16
- EPHESIANS 4:7, 11-12
- ROMANS 12:1-8
- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1, 4-12
- 1 PETER 4:10-11

Have different person read each passage. For each-

*What is the gift here? Who has it? Note statements re. Diversity and distribution in each passage.

1. Greatest gift is given to all.
2. All are gifted; not discussing amount of gifting but diversity of gifting. # of roles derives from # of gifts. Unity in goal. “Our various gifts are in order to help others do what they do with their various gifts.
3. Community (each). Church needs all.
4. God = several, Father, Son, Holy Spirit. His will, purpose, goal is common/one (v.7)
5. God gives; God is the beneficiary. All point back to him.
GIFTING (OT)

- EXODUS 18:13-26
- EXODUS 17:10-13
- EXODUS 24:14
- JEREMIAH 18:18
- EZEKIEL 7:25-27

Gifting not only NT phenomenon. *

Have others volunteer to read these, again noting diversity and distribution.

1. Most important of whole course. What calling to do? Delegate. Why difficult for us- I can do it better; this is where my identity lies; this is what I’m paid to do; this is where I get my ego stroked; too hard to train others to do. Pastoral blind spot. Negates all of gifting passages from NT- Equip others for service. George Mallone- doorknob.


3. Shown faithful in little, now entrusted with much.

4. Different roles for different folks.

5. Result of lack of fulfilling roles.

Tools to help:

Spiritual Gifts and Church Growth: Modified HOUTS Questionnaire (Pasadena: Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth, 1981)

Ask to share tools/books/courses found useful for this. Write on board.

C. Peter Wagner, Your Spiritual Gifts Can Help Your Church Grow
MOTTO VERSE
ROMANS 12:6a

- God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. (NLT)
- We have different gifts according to the grace God has given to us. (NIV)
1. Completely different from each other- quiet and studious (takes after me) vs. noisy and outgoing (takes after my wife).

2. Close eyes, imagine being in favorite vacation place. Where? Temperature? Who else around? What doing? Same exercise- what would significant other say? My wife likes the beach, can’t figure out why she doesn’t want to join me at the Cambridge University library! Heaven- bookstore/library with delicatessen/bakery next door.
1. “All truth is God’s truth’ even if described by non-believers.

2. Other things we do/believe not biblical categories either:
   “Trinity”, “eschatology”- not in Bible
   Sunday school- not in Bible
   Women wearing hats- is in Bible, how many practice?
Heard people/preachers referring to biblical characters in personality terms— even if they might not think doing so in those terms:

* Peter - impetuous, mouth is quicker than the brain
* Job - patient, gutsy- argue with friends and God
* Lamech - Gen 4- braggard, boast in evil
Personality Type Tools

- Taylor- Johnson Temperament Indicator
  (http://www.pearsonassessments.com/assessments/tests/tjta.htm)
- MMPI (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Indicator;
  http://www.pearsonassessments.com/assessments/tests/mmpi_2.htm)
- Myers-Briggs Type Indicator

1. Taylor-Johnson- first I encountered. Useful, fairly easy, but not clinically tested to the extent some others are. Useful in that can do criss-cross testing, i.e. take one on your understanding of someone else. Good for premarital, marital, family situations.
   http://assessments.ncs.com/assessments/tests/tjta.htm

2. Professional- clinical tool for detecting psychoses and neuroses. Beyond pastoral need. If need it, refer to professional.

3. Clinically tested, multiple uses. Introduction to here. Numerous sites discuss, including some with critique, and also parodys.
1. Saying ‘X has no personality.’ Can it be true? NO. Everyone has some personality type- X might be more quiet, passive, unprepossessing. Not that has no personality- failed M-B test!

2. Like gifting- all gifts needed in church to function to fullest potential. So need all personality types. What would a church made up completely of I’s look like?

   Romans 12:3: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought- common human problem, arrogance, Messiah complex, especially among leaders.

   Problem today among so many = converse- don’t think of yourself more lowly than you ought. Worm-theology- “I am a worm and not a man.” Some churches good at helping us in this-
1. CPI class took MMPI second half of class after major exam- all came back with ‘paranoid’ finding.

Changes when up/down- women probably different at different times of the month; pastor’s probably different Sunday at 10am from Monday at 10am. Snap at someone- they and we = surprised: “That’s not like me!” Mean- not according to my regular personality. Something changed.

2. These = preferences, not prison. Labels are not us: too often labeled and stereotyped- we don’t like typecasting: “You say that because you’re black/white/Baptist/Pentecostal/woman/man/foreigner.” Labels can help in understanding, but incomplete. Not strait-jacket, not x-ray.
This exercise is for us to be able to understand, appreciate who we are; see how others = different, why they approach things the way they do. What value can I derive from their differences?

Not to put ourselves or others into a box.
**M-BTI: Goldsworthy**

- What personality type did you find yourself to be?
- What aspects of your devotional life and spiritual formation preferences are illuminated by understanding what your personality type is?

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Disclaimers: Inadequacy card; DWB not a counselor; DWB not a psychologist; DWB not certified in M-B; DWB knows less about M-B than some of you

DWB= discussion leader/facilitator for thought

Allow 30-45 minutes. Small groups for discussion. [Which personality types like this kind of activity? E. We “I”s like small group of one person.]

I = S (use eyes/ears/senses; touch; life as is vs. N (imagination; life as could be)

II = T (operational, justice) vs. F (feelings, harmony)

III = J (Decisive action, quick) vs. P (flexible, slow to decide)
1. As discussed in small groups. Other ways = important? “Know thyself”

2. Don’t work/minister in vacuum. What places/contexts would this type of information on self/others be useful?
   - Board meetings
   - Staff interactions
   - Congregation
   - Counseling- pre-marital/marital

Own family crisis situations- how will people react differently, and why?
“Self-knowledge is the beginning of all knowledge.”