Course Description: This course is a specialized study in the area of Christian Discipleship. Emphasis is given toward the student’s development of a proper understanding and the application of Biblical principles for discipleship. Students are exposed to practical resources, topics and strategies for effective discipleship. This emphasis of this course is upon spiritual disciplines within church, including the challenging issue of church discipline.

Required Texts
Donald Whitney. *Spiritual Disciplines within the Church* (Moody Press, 1996)
ISBN# 0-8024-7746-1

Suggested Text:
ISBN# 0-87123-834-9

Course Objectives
1. Student should be able to establish clearly defined and systematic justification for selected spiritual disciplines or actions within a local church.
2. Student should be able to create initial steps to implement training of such issues within a local church context
3. Student should be able to evaluate/reflect upon his or her own spiritual growth in these disciplines
4. Student should develop authoritative principles (via Biblical authority) for initiating and completing actions of church discipline
5. Student should develop appropriate views/means to define or identify situations in need of church discipline

Course Requirements (Note due dates for each assignment)
1. Attend 2008 W.N. Paschal Bible Lectures October 7-9, 2008*
2. Write notes on each lecture by Dr. Donald Whitney (Due 10/21/08)
3. Prepare a Power Point presentation that outlines each chapter of *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church*. (Due 9/30/08) Each chapter may be a separate presentation and must identify itself as being based upon the textbook. Students must email at least one chapter’s presentation to the professor by 9/30/08. Printed copies of the total presentations are also acceptable by the due date. Purpose is to create initial steps to implement training of such issues within a church context.
4. Take course exam based upon *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church*. Purpose is to establish clearly defined and systematic justification for disciplines and actions within church.

5. Survey your local church by asking 20 church members (or half of your local congregation) using the attached “Church Membership Survey” form based on the 13 questions asked in the book *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church*. Encourage respondents to answer concisely. The results of these surveys will be compiled as part of the course. Purpose is to help create initial steps to implement training by discerning the training needs. **Due 10/7/08**

6. Answer the questions from J. Carl Laney’s book, *A Guide to Church Discipline*. **Due 10/7/08**

7. Survey at least one leader (pastor, associate, etc.) from seven churches in your “area” to define “discipleship” and to learn their means for making disciples. These must include at least 5 churches outside of your affiliation of churches. Purpose is to learn effective means of making disciples. **(Due 10/7/08)**

8. Prepare a written report that evaluates/reflects upon your own spiritual growth after reading *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. The report must include at least one page per discipline and address the following questions: What am I doing well? How could I do better? And, What have I learned about the discipline from the reading? **(Due 11/11/08)**

9. Report/Reflect upon the Biblical teaching and in-class discussions regarding the appropriate means to identify situations in need of church discipline. **Due 11/18/08**

10. Choose a spiritual discipline and Develop approximately 12 lesson plan/curriculum outlines that can be used as a foundation for training church members for discipleship in the discipline. The lessons should include both knowledge and experiential components (guided by a knowledgeable and experienced teacher). These lessons should be similar to those in Evangelism Explosion (i.e., a time for information and Bible study complimented by actual experience in the discipline of evangelism). Use the results of the surveys of church leaders and church members, class discussion, etc. to determine needs of your congregation and to use teaching methods that will help you create effective curriculum and follow the example of Jesus. **(Due 11/25/08)**

**Grading**
Grades will be determined by an average of scores for selected course requirements (25% for #s 3 and 4; 25% for #s 5, 6, 7; 25% for # 8 and 25% for #s 9-10). Items 1 and 2 must be done or a deduction of 5% each will be deducted from the final grade.

All assignments turned in late will receive an automatic reduction in grade. The grade will continue to be reduced if work is continually delayed. Classes and regulations and refunds will be followed as printed in the Catalog (page 44 and 47). Changes may be made in the syllabus if announced in advance during a regularly scheduled class period. Students should not dominate classroom discussions and avoid the use of cell phones and text messaging during class. Students must also attend chapel services.

*Students should be at the seminary for the October 7 lecture at 9:30 AM. Students will also meet with the professor immediately following the lecture for further instructions. Students should be at the seminary at 8:30 AM on October 8 and prepared to discuss pre-class assignments.*
Area Church Leadership Survey
BMA Seminary Course PM 515

Students should identify themselves as conducting a survey as part of his or her seminary education. Be sure to express gratitude for the leader’s time and insight. Please assure them that their identities will be confidential and that their comments will be included in an overall survey for the course. The purpose is to enhance the student’s understanding of discipleship in a broader Christian community and to discover and affirm effective means for making disciples. Students should attempt to record the facts of what is stated by each leader regardless of his or her reply.

What is a typical definition of a Christian disciple?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What strategies are most effective in making disciples within a local church context?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Church Membership Survey  
BMA Seminary Course PM 515

Please answer each question briefly and specifically. Specifics should include Bible references or phrases that serve as a foundation for the actions. Your responses will be anonymous and combined with others. Thanks for your help!

1. **Why Go to Church?**

   ____________________________

   Bible basis?

   ____________________________

2. **Why Seek Baptism in the Church?**

   ____________________________

   Bible basis?

   ____________________________

3. **Why Join a Church?**

   ____________________________

   Bible basis?

   ____________________________

4. **Why Listen to Preaching in the Church?**

   ____________________________

   Bible basis?
5. Why Worship with the Church?

Bible basis?

6. Why Witness with the Church?

Bible basis?

7. Why Serve in the Church?

Bible basis?

8. Why Give to the Church?

Bible basis?

9. Why Attend the Ordinances of the Church?

Bible basis?
10. Why Fellowship with the Church?

Bible basis?

11. Why Pray with the Church?

Bible basis?

12. Why Learn in the Church?

Bible basis?

13. Why Research the Church?

Bible basis?

14. I learn best (at anything) when the “teacher”

15. My real spiritual growth has occurred when:
Questions Regarding Church Discipline
(A Guide to Church Discipline by J. Carl Laney, Page 13)

1. What is church discipline?
2. Why is church discipline necessary? What are the consequences of neglecting this ministry?
3. When is church discipline in order? What sins or offenses require discipline?
4. What steps should be taken to discipline a church member? What attitudes are essential to carrying out church discipline effectively?
5. What does Paul mean when he writes of delivering one over “to Satan for the destruction of his flesh” (1 Cor. 5:5)? Who has authority to administer church discipline?
6. What is the purpose of church discipline? Is it designed to punish, correct, or restore? What results should it be expected to achieve?
7. What place does forgiveness have in church discipline? When should it be extended?
8. What happens if the sinning saint does not respond to the disciplinary measures?
9. What steps should be followed in disciplining a pastor, deacon, or church leader?
10. What are the dangers of church discipline? How can a lawsuit be avoided?
11. What are other pastors and churches in America doing about church discipline? How can churches work together more effectively to carry out church discipline?