

Medical Student Summer Seminars 2019
Faith and Vocation in Healthcare Syllabus
Dr. Jay and Laura Lynch
3821 SW 78th St
Gainesville, FL 32608

Introduction: As a follower of Christ, how do you think about the profession of medicine?

Medical school can be overwhelming and can often obscure the larger more beautiful and empowering Christian vision of our calling. It is therefore worthwhile to take time to read about, reflect upon and discuss the importance of vocational calling in our faith and its implications for those of us in medicine. It is my belief that there is no more natural home for uniting faith and vocation than for those involved in attending to the health of other human beings. As we care for the sick, maintain health, assist in recovery or relieve suffering for those at the end of life we can be the tangible presence of Christ for those we serve. Having acknowledged this, there are many important questions that we will raise as we consider how Biblical texts, theological traditions and philosophical worldviews shape our understanding of faith and vocation.

While the church has often created an artificial dichotomy between the “spiritual” and “secular” domains of life, we will try to develop a more Biblical view where we understand every aspect of our lives, including our vocation, as under the lordship of Christ and hence a spiritual act of worship before God. During these 5 Sunday evening sessions on June 9th, June 30th, July 7th July 14th and July 21st, we will meet at our home, share dinner, and discuss the readings for each week. We hope to generate honest discussion about the challenges that face us in medicine and encourage one another towards faithfulness together as a community within the health system.

The timing of these seminars should be hospitable to medical students who have just completed their first year and those just competing their third year. Since the experiences of rising 2nd and 4th year students are so different, a healthy proportion of students from both groups would be ideal to create the best kind of conversation. The responsibilities of the students will be to do the readings ahead of time, coming prepared to discuss them and to be present for a free meal and conversation.

Through readings, film and discussions, we hope to come to a deeper and lasting understanding our calling that will sustain us as we offer care for others. Below are the specific goals of this track which include ways of understanding the professions in general, the integrity and views of a Christian practitioner, as well as how to respectfully and honorably work through conflicts when our values conflict with those of other people or the health system. I look forward to spending time with each of you as we learn together how to follow Christ in the medical profession.

Learning Objectives:

Students should be able to articulate in their own words as part of a discussion group...

1. The scope of vocational calling in the medicine and the ideal of the Christian physician.
2. The need for Christian physicians to ground their professional values in a solid Biblical worldview while living a life of integrity.
3. What it means to be a healthy human being and the importance of seeing each patient as an individual in a healthcare system increasingly driven by efficiency, technology and computers.
4. The critical importance of both the science and art of medical care.
5. How to interact with colleagues, other health professionals and patients while navigating differences between our values/beliefs and theirs.



Medical Student Summer Seminars 2019
Faith and Vocation in Healthcare Syllabus
Dr. Jay and Laura Lynch
3821 SW 78th St
Gainesville, FL 32608

Seminar Schedule:

Sunday June 9th 2019 6:30-9pm

Subject: Introduction to the seminar and viewing “The Doctor” as a group; We will distribute the notebooks with the readings and discuss the goals of each student for the seminar.

Sunday June 30th 6:30-9pm

Subject: The Meaning of Being Human and Purpose of Work—“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Col 3:23-24

Reading:

Why Work? (Abridged), Dorothy Sayers

The Weight of Glory, C.S. Lewis

The Work Itself. Richard Horner; *Reconsiderations Vol 6, No 3, March 2007*

Science, Nature and Soul. C. John Sommerville; *Reconsiderations Vol 9 no 2 May 2010*

During this first meeting we will watch, *The Doctor*; a film starring William Hurt which explores the importance of the human dimension in medicine and is based on a true story.

Sunday, July 7th 2018 6:30-9pm

Subject: The Christian Physician—John 13:1-17 “... You call me Teacher and Lord and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you.”

Reading:

Educating the Christian Physician- Edmund Pellegrino, CMDA Study Guide

A Christian Perspective on Healthcare, Johan Tangelder

A Biblical Foundation for Medicine 1 John Dunlop; Today’s Christian Doctor Fall 2011

Incarnation and Hospitality; JW Lynch, Reconsiderations Vol 15 No 2 July 2015

Sunday, July 14th 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Subject: A Biblical World View of Healthcare—“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. ⁴The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. ⁵We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” 2 Cor 10:3-5

Reading:

What Frames What? Richard Horner *Reconsiderations Vol 4, #5 October 2005*

The Mind of Christ; Richard Horner *Reconsiderations Vol 12 #1 March 2013*

A Biblical Foundation for Medicine 2 John Dunlop; Today’s Christian Doctor Winter 2011

Medicine in the Grand Scheme of things. John Dunlop Today’s Christian Doctor Winter 2007

Sunday, July 21st 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Subject: Art, Science, and Relationship in Medicine—Mark 10:35-44; “... whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant.”

Reading:

Ars Brevis George A Sonos; *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, April 8, 2013

Shared Decision Making—the Pinnacle of Patient-Centered Care *NEJM* 366;9 3-1-12

How Shall we Then Practice; Medicine as Gift, Power and Vocation

The Man in the Vest; JW Lynch; Journal of Clin Onc; Vol 35 No 35; Dec 2017; 3987-9

