

Introducing the 2017-18 Seminar Series

Reframing the Gospel for Mission: Recovering the Prophetic Dimension of Jesus' Way of Being Human

Now Offered in 8- or 3-Session Options

This 8- or 3-session series introduces and applies the work of René Girard to gain a better understanding of and engage in central issues of our survival, e.g., racism, economics, and militarism. As Disciples of Jesus, participants will gain a vision for living into the movement of God's Spirit to bring the day when, instead of laying waste to our cities one more time, we beat swords into plowshares and learn to no longer make war (Isa 6:11; 2:4).

What: Seminar series in two options: (1) Eight one-day-per-month sessions October-May; or (2) Three 1.5-2.5 days session Fall, Winter, Spring; Educational Strategy: interpersonal engagement for maximizing mutual learning over extended time

Where: In process -- the first step is to recruit 8-15 participants for a site and contact Paul Nuechterlein by email (paulnue56@sbcglobal.net) or phone (269-290-4533) to inquire about scheduling a series

Who: Clergy and lay church leaders interested in recovering the prophetic dimension of the Gospel

Tuition: \$550 in 2017; or \$600 spread over 2017-18 (\$100 at time of registration)

Required Reading: *Everything Must Change* by Brian McLaren, *Compassion or Apocalypse?* by James Warren, and numerous chapter excerpts and extended outlines from additional MT books.

8-Session Schedule: This option provides optimal spacing for reading and digesting the seminar concepts and applications

Part I – Introduction to Mimetic Theory in 3 sessions:

- **October** - *Original Goodness – Created in God's Image for Compassionate Stewardship*
- **November** - *Original Sin – From Mimetic Desire to Mimetic Violence*
- **December** - *Original Sin – Cultures of Sacred Violence and the Prophetic Critique of Sacrifice*

Part II – Mimetic Theory and Theology in 2 sessions:

- **January** - *Apocalypse and Eschatology*
- **February** - *The Cross and Atonement – from Retributive Justice to Restorative Justice*

Part III – Mimetic Theory and the Prophetic in 3 sessions:

- **March** - *Racism - Engaging Inequity in the Equity System*
- **April** - *Economics - Engaging Scarcity as Sacred Violence in the Prosperity System*
- **May** - *Militarism and Policing - Engaging the Sacred Violence in the Security System*

3-Session Schedule: This option is offered for situations of further travel distance for Paul Nuechterlein (Kalamazoo, MI)

- **Fall** - **Part I:** *Introduction to Mimetic Theory* in 2.5-Day Session
- **Winter** - **Part II:** *Mimetic Theory and Theology* in 1.5-Day Session
- **Spring** - **Part III:** *Mimetic Theory and the Prophetic* in 2.5 Day Session

Paul Nuechterlein has been a student of Girard's work for twenty-five years. He has presented at multiple international conferences of the Colloquium on Violence & Religion (COV&R), makes Mimetic Theory accessible through his website Girardian Reflections on the Lectionary (girardianlectionary.net), and is currently the Contributing Theologian for Theology and Peace, a para-church organization dedicated to "the application of René Girard's groundbreaking work to subvert the matrix of human violence."

"I'm convinced that the seminal work of René Girard is the single most promising and productive contemporary resource capable of stimulating fresh readings of the Bible, constructive critical thought about Christian theology and practice, and incisive inducement to productive activism.

Paul Nuechterlein has helped me more than anyone else to read the Scriptures in light of Girard's groundbreaking work. I'd encourage anyone and everyone to seize an opportunity to learn with Paul."

~ **Brian D. McLaren**,
Christian author and teacher