The Center for Research in Science
Science, Faith, and Culture Lectures 2009-10

The Sermon on the Mount and Contemporary Christian Ethics

All lectures are held in the Perry Lecture Hall, Segerstrom Science Center, located at 675 E. Foothill Boulevard on APU's West Campus, and begin at 6:30 pm unless otherwise noted. Complimentary refreshments provided.

The Center for Research in Science cordially invites you to celebrate the start of APU’s new academic year by attending our Science, Faith and Culture lecture series. The 2009-2010 lecture series is entitled, “The Sermon on the Mount and Contemporary Christian Ethics,” reflecting our campus-wide Matthew 5 scriptural theme. The motivation for our focus on ethics is to encourage the audience to consider ways in which we conduct our lives within our chosen disciplines—vocationally and otherwise, in a Christ-like way in our increasingly sociologically and technologically complex world.

September 16
The Ethics of God: a Closer Look at Traditional Christian Ethics; Christopher Neiswonger, JD
Global Centre; World Vision International

The Topic: These days everyone is trying to reinvent the wheel. The problem is that so few in our culture remember what the wheel looked like. The old ways have not outlived their significance and Neiswonger would argue that they may be our only hope at an applied ethic that is practical, reasonable, and reconcilable with sacred scripture. Far from being a secondary source in our axiology, revelation seems primary to the very idea of practicing an ethical life. The historic framework has always held two primary commitments: the moral law of God and the cultivation of the traditional Christian virtues. This lecture will take the listener from the existence of God, through the defense of a basic orthodoxy, to the promotion of a healthy spiritual life in faith and practice.

The Speaker: Specializing in classical Christian ethics, Christopher Neiswonger has taught and served in many churches over the past twenty years. His personal ethics are echoed in his work on child protection, immigration, and international trademark defense for World Vision International. His lecture will take the listener from the existence of God, through the defense of a basic orthodoxy, to the promotion of a healthy spiritual life in faith and practice.

Neiswonger received his Juris Doctor from Trinity Law School and his Master of Arts degree in Communication and Culture from Trinity Graduate School, and is currently completing an MBA in International Development.
October 14

Dignity and the Narrow Way: Christ’s Exclusive Claims in the Sermon on the Mount; Kathy McReynolds, PhD; Director, Public Policy Center; Christian Institute on Disability

The Topic: Please join us for this month’s lecture. Dr. McReynolds proposes that the Sermon on the Mount provides a basis for ethics, suggesting that Christ’s pronouncements validate the dignity of all.

The Speaker: A daily immersion in contemporary issues in Christian ethics confronts Kathy McReynolds in her role as director of Public Policy at Joni and Friends’ Christian Institute on Disability. She performs research and writing on current issues in bioethics, hosts forums, is involved in education and training, and is a sought-after speaker for the Institute. She also teaches in the biblical studies department at Biola University.

McReynolds specialized in ethical issues in genetic enhancement research during studies for her Ph.D. in Ethics at USC, and has served the Southern California region as an active member of the ethics committees at Children’s Hospital in Orange County, at UCI Medical Center, and at Tarzana Hospital.

November 18

Christian Ethics and Sexual Anthropology; Miguel Endara, PhD
Author and philosopher; Azusa Pacific University; Pierce College

The Topic: In this month’s lecture, Dr. Endara proposes that Matthew 15:18-20 (as well as other biblical passages) seems to prohibit sex outside of marriage. He believes that God wisely and benevolently gave us these and other prohibitions for our own good. In fact, God’s entire moral law exists for our benefit, for our flourishing as human beings. If this idea is true, then Christians ought to be able to argue for God’s moral laws independent of Scripture. In this lecture Endara presents a moral argument against extra-marital sex, grounded on reason and on features of our common humanity.

The Speaker: A scholar in philosophy, theology, bioethics, Miguel Endara frequently addresses issues such as cloning, stem cell research, abortion, and more. He has taught in several Southern California universities, as well as internationally, and has lectured on various topics in ethics at conferences around the world.

Endara earned a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Saint Louis University, a Master’s in Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Master’s in Christian Apologetics from Trinity International University. He is a co-author of Una introduccion a la Bioetica, to be released in late 2009 in Quito, Ecuador, as well as numerous book chapters and magazine articles.
January 27  
*The Character of Christian Ethics: An Exposé; Roy Clouser, PhD*  
Professor Emeritus, Philosophy and Religion; College of New Jersey

**The Topic:** Please join us for this month’s lecture as Dr. Clouser outlines the two most widespread theories of ethics—rationalism and utilitarianism, and contrasts to each of them the ethic of love taught in scripture. This will be both an exposition and an exposé: an exposition in that it will contrast Christian ethics with the rationalism of the western philosophical tradition (Aristotle, Kant), as well as the utilitarianism so popular in the English speaking world at present; an exposé in that it will unmask the ways that Christian thinkers have unwittingly corrupted the scriptural view of ethics by recasting it along rationalist lines. That corruption, he argues, has included both miscasting the Law of Moses as a template for moral judgments and compounding that error by interpreting the Law from the standpoint of Hellenistic or Kantian assumptions.

**The Speaker:** Roy Clouser is professor of philosophy and religion (Emeritus) at the College of New Jersey. He holds an AB from Gordon College, a BD from Reformed Episcopal Seminary, and an MA and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. During his doctoral work, he studied with Paul Tillich at Harvard Graduate school and with Herman Dooyeweerd at the Free University of Amsterdam. In 1997 he won one of the Templeton Awards for his course in science and religion. He is the author of *The Myth of Religious Neutrality* (University of Notre Dame Press, revised 2005), *Knowing with the Heart* (InterVarsity Press, 1999), and over 20 articles.

January 28  
*Luncheon Discussion; Roy Clouser, PhD*  
*Luncheon by reservation*, noon, Segerstrom Science Center Library/Seminar Room

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February 10  
*Disability and Theology: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Christian Practices;*  
Amos Yong, PhD., J. Rodman Williams Professor of Theology  
Regent University School of Divinity

**The Topic:** Evangelicalism needs a plausible theology of disability that can enable the contemporary church’s engagement with the world regarding this issue. Much can be learned, it will be suggested, from consulting gains made in other fields of inquiry. Today’s lecture provides an interdisciplinary perspective for the forging of a more relevant and truthful theology of disability, not only for people with disabilities, but also for the church’s mission and discursive practices.

**The Speaker:** Amos Yong is J. Rodman Williams Professor of Theology at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, Virginia. His graduate education includes degrees in theology, history, and religious studies from Western Evangelical Seminary
and Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, and Boston University, Boston Massachusetts. He has published six books – on theology of religions, theological method, pneumatological theology, Pentecostal theology, and theology and disability – and is presently completing two manuscripts on Pentecostalism and political theology.

Dr. Yong edited a recently published book (2009), *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth: Pentecostal Forays in Science and Theology of Creation* (Pickwick Press, Eugene, Oregon), and authored and/or edited several other books, as well as numerous published chapters and journal articles.

**March 10**

*Science and Grace: God’s Reign in the Natural Sciences;* Tim Morris, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology; Covenant College, Chattanooga, Tennessee

**The Topic:** Are modern science and Christianity “at war?” Should Christians attempt to clear their minds of Christian convictions when entering the “halls of science”? Should believing scientists aspire to conduct their science in a different way than unbelieving scientists? What are the natural laws that science attempts to describe, and is ascribing “cause” to natural law a form of naturalism? Dr. Morris will argue that to address such issues, a full-orbited “theology of scientific endeavor” can be of great benefit. He will describe several ways in which a theology of science rooted in the dynamics of God’s Grace and human response to it can provide rich resources for faithful Christian involvement in the science of our day.

**The Speaker:** After graduating from Covenant College in 1983, Tim Morris did graduate work at the University of Florida (Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, 1989), and post-doctoral research at the University of Georgia (molecular virology). He joined faculty at Covenant in 1995, serves as chair of the biology department and teaches a variety of courses in the Biology major program and in the college’s Core program as well.

In addition to his love for the biological aspects of God’s world, he has a special interest in helping Christians better understand the relationship between contemporary science and Christianity. He was a participant in the Templeton/Oxford Seminars on Science and Christianity held during the summers of 1999, 2000, and 2001 at Wycliffe Hall in Oxford, England. His book, *Science and Grace,* co-authored with physicist Don Petcher, was released by Crossway Books in March 2006.

**March 24**

*VIOLENT LOVE: Constructing Contemporary Ethics with Jesus, Jack Bauer, and Dexter*  
Matt Rindge, PhD; Asst. Professor of Religious Studies, Gonzaga University

**The Topic:** Ethical questions about violence and its potential as a force for good permeate contemporary popular culture in America. Films (*Kill Bill, A History of Violence, The Dark Knight*) and television (*24, Dexter*) raise pointed questions about the costs and benefits of using violence as a possible instrument of love or justice. In what contexts, if
any, can violence be a force for the common good? The Bible asks similar questions (and provides conflicting answers) about the potentially constructive role of violence. What can Americans in a post 9/11 world marked by the war on terror learn from Jesus, Moses, and popular culture (Jack Bauer, Dexter) about the potential costs and benefits of using violence as a force for justice?

The Speaker: Matthew S. Rindge (Ph.D., Emory University) is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA. He has taught at Emory University, Candler School of Theology, Columbia Theological Seminary, Azusa Pacific University, and in many Asian and Latin American countries. At Gonzaga he teaches Synoptic Gospels, Bible and Film, and Bible and Ethics.

He speaks regularly at churches and universities on the intersection of Bible, Ethics, and Popular Culture. In addition to writing several articles, he is currently co-authoring *The History of Biblical Interpretation to 1835: A Reader* (Westminster John Knox Press). He serves on the Steering Committee for the Bible and American Popular Culture section in the Society of Biblical Literature.

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*This event cancelled due to illness of speaker/family*

April 7

*Are All Values Relative? Seeking Common Ethical Ground in a World of Conflicting Views*; Robert Kane, PhD; University Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, University of Texas Austin


He is generally regarded as one of the world’s leading defenders of an incompatibilist and libertarian view of free will. He has been the recipient of fifteen major teaching awards at the University of Texas and was named in 1995 as one of the first twelve members of the university’s Academy of Distinguished Teachers. His latest work on wisdom, values and ethics entitled *Ethics and the Quest for Wisdom*, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press.
April 21
*The Ethics of Health Care Reform*, James Miser, M.D., pediatric cancer specialist; recent service as both the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Executive Officer at the City of Hope National Medical Center; Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in APU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**The Topic:** Many are excited and some are dismayed about the health care reform recently enacted into law. But how should we assess our health care system and the recent reform passed by Congress? Our current health care system and health care reform will be discussed from a Christian ethical perspective. The U.S. system will be discussed and contrasted with the United Kingdom National Health Service. There will be opportunity for open discussion.

**The Speaker:** James Miser returned to APU this year as a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Miser is a pediatric cancer specialist and has been both the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Executive Officer at the City of Hope National Medical Center.

Under his guidance, City of Hope undertook many long-term projects designed to improve the quality of care for patients. Helford Clinical Research Hospital at City of Hope opened in July 2005, offering patients advanced care in a technologically superior environment. Miser was also instrumental in the recruitment of key administrative leadership, including Larry Kidd, M.P.A., R.N., vice president of Patient Services and chief nurse executive.

While he may be best known for his accomplishments in patient care and pediatric oncology, Miser has played an important role as mentor to a new generation of City of Hope scientists. Michael C. Jensen, M.D., associate chair, Division of Cancer Immunotherapeutics & Tumor Immunology, began working with Miser in 1993 at the University of Washington. "He is an individual who exudes intellect, integrity and compassion. These attributes have been a guiding force in my maturation as a physician-scientist," Jensen said. "When the world is perceived from his vantage point, the humanitarian social imperatives of cancer research become self-evident. I was lucky to grow up professionally under his mentorship."

*Please make luncheon reservations with Marilyn Schulz – mschulz@apu.edu or 626.815-6480*