

Spiritual Formation

Identity and Motivation?

- o **Identity:** Ministry of presence as well as position.
- o **Identity:** Context of Christian community because you cannot do business by yourself (Nazarene).
- o **Motivation:** Christians work, not to hoard wealth, but to love our neighbors within the community and beyond.
- o **Motivation:** The tensions of Christian faith: the eschatological paradox of already/not-yet (Seattle Pacific).
- o Dichotomy between faculty and everyone else.

Vocation and Discernment?

- o The Indiana Wesleyan University syllabus seems to provide opportunities for undergrad students to discern career/calling.
- o Tension between the sacred and secular (group).
- o Erased distinction between formational assessment and vocational assessment instead of placing it under one umbrella. They are not separate.
- o More highly educated professional pastors, but they have lost touch with the laity (priesthood of all believers is not active).

Sin and Sanctification?

- o Economics: greed and hoarding critically impact others

- One of the major tasks of spiritual formation work is to help people address the compartmentalization of "sacred" and "secular." Perhaps using formation, without the "spiritual" modifier, would better communicate the holistic nature of this endeavor.
- Gordon-Conwell Seminary ordains people (graduates for MAR degree?) to the workplace.
- Hierarchies occur across the workplace, not just in "church ministry." Part of our work is to keep breaking down the "pedestal" mentality. It isn't good for pastors, either.
- Focusing on the issue of identity (identifying the source of identity, developing a strong identity, identity as it relates to vocation) is also a critical task of spiritual formation. Several books were mentioned as possible resources including: "Transforming Spirituality" by Shults and Sandage, "Abba's Child" by Brennan Manning, "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation" by Parker Palmer.
- There seems to be an important methodological consideration when teaching formation; professors need to create safe, hospitable space where students can really learn to work together in the classroom.