



2025-2026

Course Syllabus

Program Description

This nine-month program will establish a solid foundation for those who are new to the study of Christian worldview, and for those who are well-versed in Christian worldview and apologetics; you will gain new insights into today's rapidly changing cultural context. In both instances, students will go beyond understanding worldview as a collection of facts, and instead develop the critical thinking skills or biblical wisdom to discern what is true, good and beautiful in every situation.

Colson Fellows in Training follow a carefully curated curriculum that includes books, essays, articles, devotionals, and video components. Each day, participants will access and complete each month's assignments on the Colson Fellows Online Learning Platform. Additionally, Colson Fellows in Training are invited to attend two live webinars each month featuring assigned authors and leading experts on various topics (recordings are available). Each month, Colson Fellows in Training will gather in their respective Cohorts to discuss and verbally process what they're learning with their fellow participants and Cohort leaders. Ultimately, Colson Fellows in Training will be tasked with developing a "Teaching Practicum" that illuminates a topic/issue covered in the Program and finally, Colson Fellows in Training will be aided in developing a "Personal Mission Plan" that considers their respective gifts, calling, and sphere of influence.

Why Become a Colson Fellow?

In 1999, Chuck Colson, writing about the state of our culture said, "We live in a culture that is at best morally indifferent. A culture in which Judeo-Christian values are mocked and where immorality in high places is not only ignored but even rewarded in the voting booth. A culture in which violence, banality, meanness, and disintegrating personal behavior are destroying civility and endangering the very life of our communities...weary, we are tempted to withdraw into the safety of our sanctuaries, to keep busy by plugging into every program offered by our megachurches, hoping to keep ourselves and our children safe from the coming desolation."

Years later, this same concern not only remains but has intensified. It was out of this concern that the Colson Fellows program was born. Who among us isn't concerned that our culture is rapidly abandoning its philosophical moorings and the distinctively Christian ideas that have contributed to both the propagation of the Christian faith and unprecedented human flourishing? Suffice it to say, our culture is abandoning truth in favor of ideas that always and everywhere do harm to the human person and society.

It is our love of God and neighbor that compels us to act on behalf of humanity and the world by protecting what is good, opposing what is harmful, providing what is absent, and restoring what is broken for the glory of God. The Colson Fellows Program will help you better understand the times so you will know how to live and what to do.

Overview of the Colson Fellows Program

Focus

Each quarter of the training program develops according to a primary focus. All training activities are designed to explain, develop, and sharpen that focus in the Colson Fellows in Training.

Topics

The topics for each quarter frame the primary elements of the focus and guide the various learning activities of the quarter. Here is a brief overview of the four quarters of the Colson Fellows training:

Quarter 1: *Making Sense of Worldviews*

Worldviews are the foundation of the beliefs, values, and behaviors of every person. The outworking of individual worldviews forms the cultures of the world. Understanding and identifying worldviews are essential for making sense of the world.

Quarter 2: *Understanding Culture*

We are all children of our culture, yet we are usually unaware of how much our culture affects us. Having the insight to recognize the influence of culture and the many subcultures around us provides the vision to see areas where we can make a difference.

Quarter 3: *Flashpoints in Current Culture from a Worldview Perspective*

Applying the understanding of worldview and culture, the current cultural “flashpoints” can be examined and interpreted. Current issues include sexual identity, LGBTQ, religious liberty, sanctity of life, critical race theory, etc. Providing a Christian worldview perspective on contemporary society gives an all-embracing overview with solutions for cultural renewal.

Quarter 4: *Forming a Cultural Response*

Colson Fellows in Training will study the concept of calling with an emphasis on the broad diversity of giftedness and sacred service applied to the multitude of human vocations employed in the advance of God’s kingdom for His glory. The capstone project of the program is for each Colson Fellow in Training to develop a Personal Mission Plan for putting into practice all that was learned. Many of the Colson Fellows in Training will implement their plans through their work, ministry, church, or within their local community.

Devotionals

A one-of-a-kind interactive daily devotional provides the scriptural thread that weaves together all course components as Colson Fellows in Training study the grand story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration.

Readings

Colson Fellows in Training read one-and-a-half books per month, on average. Questions for each book are available online and should be used to guide your reading. Colson Fellows will spend time in the Regional or Online cohort meetings discussing the content of these readings.

Videos

Colson Fellows in Training watch videos as another resource that helps you master the course content. These videos range from short *The Bible Project* and *What Would You Say?* videos to in-depth presentations, debates and discussions.

Webinars

Colson Fellows in Training engage with a Christian leader via webinar. Many of these leaders are authors of the books the Colson Fellows in Training are reading. The opportunity to learn from these leaders in real time and interact with them sharpens the ideas and broadens the experience.

StrengthsFinder Assessment

Based on Gallup’s 40-year study of human strengths, they created a language of the 34 most common themes and developed the

Clifton StrengthsFinder assessment to help people discover and describe these talents. Every Colson Fellow in Training takes the assessment as an opportunity for self-reflection, and to provide input as you develop your Personal Mission Plan.

Worldview Teaching Practicum

Colson Fellows in Training will conduct a teaching practicum with a group of friends or interested students using worldview and cultural concepts from the curriculum to teach what they have been learning to others. Colson Fellows in Training prepare a teaching practicum proposal prior to beginning the project and submit a teaching practicum summary and assessment after completion of the practicum.

Personal Mission Plan

During the final quarter of the program, Colson Fellows in Training will develop a Personal Mission Plan. Knowing what you now know, you will be challenged to consider the larger story of creation, fall, redemption and restoration and contemplate your purpose and place in *His* story. Given the advent of God's healing reign over all the world (the gospel of the kingdom), coupled with your particular giftedness and calling, you will need to think about how the Lord desires to use you within your particular sphere of influence.

Optional Further Study

Throughout the program, various articles and videos will be provided as optional assignments to give Colson Fellows in Training the opportunity to dig deeper on some of the topics covered.

Colson Fellows Program Time Commitment Analysis

1. Reading: **65-81 Hours** (Number of hours depends on reading and comprehension speed. Calculation based on: The average reader reads between 200-250 words per minute and using an average number of words per page of 275.)

- Approximately 3,536 pages (specific books and articles are included in this document)
- Includes requirement to answer questions

2. Daily Study: **68 Hours (155 Devotionals @ 20 minutes each day = 52 total hours; Daily BreakPoint articles @ 5 Minutes each = 16 total hours)**

- *Biblical study* (Guided daily study of the Bible on issues related to biblical understanding, worldview comprehension, and cultural engagement)
- *Breakpoint* (Daily interaction with the Breakpoint radio/article worldview commentary on current issues)

3. Videos: **13 Hours**

The video components of the curriculum will complement what we are studying. Discussion questions are assigned to help Colson Fellows in Training consider the topics.

4. Webinars: **27 Hours**

Attend bi-monthly webinars with top Christian worldview leaders and writers along with Q&A sessions.

5. Monthly Meetings: **30 Hours**

Participate once each month throughout the nine months, either in person or online, meeting with your local or Online Cohort to discuss program content. Colson Fellows are required to attend these meetings and should miss no more than two throughout the year.

6. StrengthsFinder: **1 hour**

Every student will take the StrengthsFinder assessment to help provide them with data to understand their personal strengths and strategies for applying them.

7. Teaching: **12 hours**

Students will choose a curriculum or devise their own to teach to a group.

8. Personal Mission Plan: **10 hours**

During the last half of the course, the Colson Fellow in Training will pray, explore, and formulate a plan for putting their program into action.

TOTAL: **226-242 Hours Total or 6-7 hours per week** (This is an estimated average. Time may vary according to each individual's reading speed and study habits. Some students report a higher amount of time spent. However, students recognize that the Colson Fellows program often supplants—for a season—their typical reading and devotional habits and therefore does not represent a net addition of 6-7 hours per week.)

***The above responsibilities comprise the full nine-month program
(i.e., two semesters)***

Books Read by Colson Fellows in Training

Below is a list of books read by Colson Fellows. Read each book with discernment. Please see the monthly schedule overview for when each reading assignment is due. Questions corresponding with each reading assignment can be found in Pathwright, the Colson Fellows Learning Platform.

1. Colson, Charles W.; Pearcey, Nancy. ***How Now Shall We Live?*** Tyndale, 2004. 656 pages.
2. Packer, J.I. ***Knowing God***. InterVarsity Press, 1993. 288 pages.
3. Lewis, C.S. ***Mere Christianity***. Harper Collins, 2009. 227 pages.
4. Phillips, W. Gary; Brown, William E; Stonestreet, John. ***Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview***. Sheffield, 2008. 101 pages (chapters 1-4 only).
5. *Rath, Tom & Gallup. ***Strengthsfinder 2.0***. Gallup Press, 2007.
6. Sunshine, Glenn. ***Why You Think the Way You Do***. Zondervan, 2009. 240 pages.
7. Frankl, Viktor. ***Man's Search for Meaning***. Beacon Press, 2006. 184 pages.
8. Trueman, Carl. ***Strange New World: How Thinkers and Activists Redefined Identity and Sparked the Sexual Revolution***. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2022. 208 pages.
9. Stonestreet, John; Kunkle, Brett. ***A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World***. David C. Cook, 2017. 368 pages.
10. Qureshi, Nabeel. ***Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity***. Zondervan, 2014. 304 pages.
11. West, Christopher. ***Our Bodies Tell God's Story: Discovering the Divine Plan for Love, Sex, and Gender***. Brazos Press, 2020. 208 pages.
12. Childers, Alisa. ***Another Gospel? A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity***. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2020. 288 pages.
13. Stonestreet, John; Smith, Warren Cole. ***Restoring All Things: God's Audacious Plan to Change the World through Everyday People***. Baker Books, 2015. 242 pages.

*Optional reading. Purchasing the book includes free access to the CliftonStrengths Assessment. Alternatively, Colson Fellows in Training may purchase the assessment at <https://www.gallup.com/>

Expectations of Participants

- Completion of Assignments:** In order to meet the requirements for commissioning, all assignments in the curriculum are to be completed in Pathwright, the Colson Fellows Online Learning Platform.
- Monthly Meetings:** Whether in person or online, the monthly meetings are an essential part of the Colson Fellows Program. Plan to attend each session ready to discuss the material for that month. Colson Fellows in Training may have no more than two unexcused absences.
- Be Responsive:** If a member of your leadership team reaches out via email or text, please respond within a week. Your leaders are there to encourage you through the year and ensure you meet the requirements for commissioning.
- Code of Conduct:** Participation in the Colson Fellows Program is a privilege; therefore, all Colson Fellows in Training agree to the following guidelines as a condition of their participation:
1. Conduct yourself in a manner consistent with Christian principles as revealed Holy Scripture;
 2. Be mindful of the biblical admonition to “avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law...” (Titus 3:9);
 3. Respect your Cohort Leaders and fellow learners; do not dominate discussions; seek to *learn* rather than instruct; be discerning without being condemning; do not be a source of division and discord;
 4. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Col. 3:17).