



2026-2027

Course Syllabus

Program Description

This ten-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 phase of the training program develops according to a specific theological pillar. All training elements and activities are designed to explain, develop, and sharpen that focus in the Colson Fellows in Training.

Topics

The topics for each phase frame the primary elements of the focus and guide the learning activities of that portion of the program.

Truth: *The Christian Story and the Nature of Reality (August-October)*

Establish the Christian worldview by tracing the whole biblical Story—Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. Contrast the Christian vision of reality with rival worldviews and challenge privatized purely “spiritual” conceptions of faith by recovering the gospel of the Kingdom as God’s cosmic renewal.

Hope: *The Christian Confidence in a Disordered Age (November-December)*

Ground our confidence in Christ in four realities: (1) Christ is risen, (2) Christ is Lord, (3) Christ is making all things new, and (4) Christ has appointed our time and place. Nurture courage in the face of cultural headwinds.

Identity: *The Imago Dei and the Meaning of Personhood (January-February)*

Clarify what it means to be human in light of the imago Dei. Address cultural flashpoints that challenge biblical anthropology and propose self-constructed identities in place of created personhood.

Calling: *Living Faithfully Under Christ’s Lordship (March-April)*

Equip believers to live public, embodied faith under a Christian worldview in family, church, work, and society. Includes StrengthsFinder, Teaching Practicum, and the Personal Mission Plan as the capstone of formation.

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 approximately one-and-a-half books per month, on average. Questions for each book are available online and should be used to guide the reading. Cohort meetings provide space to discuss the content of these readings.

Videos

Colson Fellows in Training view assigned videos each month to complement the reading and reinforce the key themes of the curriculum. These range from short *The Bible Project* and *What Would You Say?* segments to longer presentations, debates, and discussions.

Webinars

Colson Fellows in Training participate in live webinars with leading Christian scholars and authors. These interactive sessions deepen understanding, sharpen theological reflection, and allow participants to engage directly with major Christian thinkers.

StrengthsFinder Assessment

Based on Gallup’s 40-year study of human strengths, this assessment identifies the 34 most common talent themes. Each Colson Fellow in Training takes the assessment as an opportunity for self-reflection and as input for developing their Personal Mission Plan.

Worldview Teaching Practicum

Each Colson Fellow-in-Training conducts a teaching practicum with a group of friends or students using *Truth Rising: The Study*. CFITs prepare a teaching proposal before beginning the project and submit a written reflection and assessment after completion.

Personal Mission Plan

During the final months of the program, each Colson Fellow-in-Training develops a Personal Mission Plan. Having rediscovered the grand story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration, each participant contemplates their purpose and place in that story.

Rooted in obedience to Christ's reign over all things, the plan becomes a practical roadmap for engaging one's sphere of influence under the Lordship of Christ.

Colson Fellows Program Time Commitment Analysis

1. Reading: **75-115 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 3,814 pages (specific books and articles are included in this document)
- Includes requirement to answer questions

2. Daily Study: **65 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: **12 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: **24 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 utilize *Truth Rising: The Study* for their Teaching Practicum

8. Personal Mission Plan: 5 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: **254-264 Hours Total or 7-8 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 7-8 hours per week.

***The above responsibilities comprise the full ten-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. Sunshine, Glenn. *Why You Think the Way You Do*. Zondervan, 2009. 240 pages.
5. Phillips, W. Gary; Brown, William E; Stonestreet, John. *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*. Sheffield, 2008. 101 pages (chapters 1-4 only).
6. Qureshi, Nabeel. *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity*. Zondervan, 2014. 304 pages.
7. Stonestreet, John; Smith, Warren Cole. *Restoring All Things: God's Audacious Plan to Change the World through Everyday People*. Baker Books, 2015. 242 pages.
8. Frankl, Viktor. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Beacon Press, 2006. 184 pages (Part 1 Only).
9. Trueman, Carl. *The Desecration of Man: How the Rejection of God Degrades Our Humanity*. Sentinel, 2026. 256 pages.
10. West, Christopher. *Our Bodies Tell God's Story: Discovering the Divine Plan for Love, Sex, and Gender*. Brazos Press, 2020. 208 pages.
11. Stonestreet, John; Kunkle, Brett. *A Practical Guide to Culture: Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's World*. David C. Cook, 2017. 368 pages.
12. Childers, Alisa. *Another Gospel? A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 2020. 288 pages.
13. Guinness, Os. *America Agonistes: America's 250th and the Restoration of a Nation in Conflict with Itself and Its Past*. Kildare, 2025. 194 pages.
14. Guinness, Os. *Our Civilizational Moment: The Waning of the West and the War of the Worlds*. Kildare, 2024. 190 pages.

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 throughout 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 by 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).