

# WHY BECOME A COLSON FELLOW?



In 1999, Chuck Colson wrote that "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, the conflict has only 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.

Why become a Colson Fellow? Because the world needs you!

S. Michael Craven

Vice President of Equipping and Mobilization, The Colson Center



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# THE COLSON FELLOWS PROGRAM

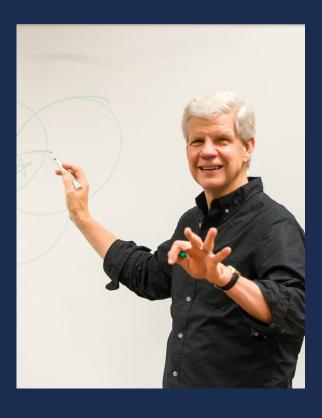
The Colson Fellows Program is a ten-month course guiding participants through the intersections of theology, faith, and culture. Students engage in daily devotions related to contemporary cultural issues, complete curated book studies, and interact with faculty and fellow students from across the country on the Colson Fellows Learning Platform.

### QUARTER ONE

Everyone has a worldview. Actually, a worldview has everyone. It is a mark of being created in the image and likeness of God. We are driven to make sense of the world and our place in it. Students will learn how to understand and identify worldviews, how they manifest in the resulting culture, and where they compare and contrast with the Christian worldview.

## **QUARTER TWO**

We are usually unaware of how deeply our culture shapes us. The Colson Fellows Program helps students recognize the subtle forces of culture on the ideas and values around us. This understanding equips Colson Fellows students to identify areas of need and opportunities to make a difference.



# QUARTER THREE

From this understanding of worldview and culture, students can analyze and interpret current cultural "flashpoints" such as sexual and racial identity, same-sex marriage, religious liberty, and sanctity of life. Students will respond with theologically grounded responses aimed at making a positive difference in the culture around them.

## QUARTER FOUR

Students study the idea of calling and bearing the image of God by exercising dominion and care over God's world and making it better through our creative attention. The program concludes with the development of a three-year ministry plan that puts into practice all that the students have learned. Upon commissioning, Colson Fellows go on to implement their plans through their vocation, ministry, church, or local community.



**QUARTER 1** 

## **JULY**

**Understanding Worldviews 1** Pre-reading; the Foundation of Christianity



# **AUGUST**

**Understanding Worldviews 2** Making Sense of Christianity and other worldviews

How are we to live?



# **SEPTEMBER**

**Understanding Worldviews 3 Explaining the Christian Worldview** Why we live the way we do



# **OCTOBER**

**Understanding Worldviews 4** Defending the Christian Worldview Apologetics for our time



**QUARTER 2** 

# Each quarter of the program develops according to a primary focus

All course components and activities are designed to explain, develop, and sharpen that focus in the program participants. The topics for each quarter frame the primary elements of the focus and guide the various learning activities of the quarter.

> ONCE A **COLSON FELLOW**

> **ALWAYS A COLSON FELLOW**



## **DECEMBER**

**Engaging Culture** Foundations for making a difference in culture Developing passion for God's work



# **QUARTER 3**

# **JANUARY**

Flashpoints in Culture: Creation Theology

Encountering LGBTQ, Islam, Abortion

Knowing and speaking truth in love

Flashpoints in Culture: American Challenges

Race, leadership, society & politics

**FEBRUARY** 

Overcoming the past to deliver hope

# **Understanding Culture** How culture forms our lives

Teenagers, Racism and Islam

**NOVEMBER** 



# **MARCH**

Preparing to Plan: God's Guidance and Work

Vocation, Calling, Mission, Vision

Knowing God and yourself



# MAY

Putting it all together



**QUARTER 4** 

# JUNE

Join The Network of Commissioned Colson Fellows.

# **APRIL**

Forming a Cultural Response Getting involved in God's audacious plan Serving God's purpose in your time

Commissioned to serve



# COURSE COMPONENTS

Participants read the best books, watch thought-provoking videos, and interact with some of today's leading Christian worldview thinkers and practitioners. Students prepare and implement a teaching practicum based on one of the course topics. Finally, they will be assisted in developing a practical three-year plan to apply their knowledge and passion within their respective sphere of influence.



# **DAILY DEVOTIONALS** (MONDAY - FRIDAY)

Dr. Bill Brown, Dean of the Colson Fellows Program, has written a one of-a-kind interactive daily devotional. These devotionals provide a scriptural thread weaving together all course components as students study the grand story of Scripture through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration.



#### **READING & DISCUSSION**

Students read 12-14 books throughout the Program along with a selection of articles and essays. Monthly meetings allow students to discuss and process what they're reading with their fellow students and leaders.



### **VIDEOS**

Cutting-edge videos serve as resources for discussion and teaching. The videos are intended to convey information as well as model approach, tone and attitude. Students are encouraged to pay close attention to what is said and how the speakers present their positions and respond to questions.



#### **WEBINARS**

Twice a month, students engage with leading Christian scholars and practitioners via webinar. Many of these leaders are the authors of books that the students are reading. Interacting with these leaders in real time deepens the experience with the most current ideas.



# WORLDVIEW TEACHING PRACTICUM & THREE-YEAR PLAN FOR MINISTRY

Students will develop and conduct a teaching practicum in which they will present some of what they have learned to others. Finally, the Capstone Project aids students in developing a plan for putting into practice what they have learned.



### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Students meet each month to review and discuss what they're learning with their fellow students and leaders to process what they are learning in a friendly, energetic setting.



# WILBERFORCE WEEKEND

Wilberforce Weekend is the climactic event of the year, featuring a stunning line-up of renowned speakers and the Colson Fellows commissioning ceremony. It also offers times to connect with other dynamic men and women who are changing cities, industries, and mission fields. Registration and travel costs are not included as part of tuition.



# **COLSON FELLOWS FACULTY INCLUDES**



**Dr. John Lennox**Professor of Mathematics

University of Oxford



John Stonestreet
President
Colson Center



Os Guinness
Author/Social Critic
Oxford Scholar



Paul Gould
Author



Alisa Childers

Author
Another Gospel



Jennifer Marshall
Senior Fellow
Heritage Foundation



Thaddeus Williams
Author
Confronting Injustice Without
Compromising Truth



**Dr. Christopher Yuan**Author/Professor
Moody Bible Institute



Emily Colson
Author
Colson Center

# **TESTIMONIALS**

The Colson Fellows Program takes you deeper in your understanding of God's creation and the practical applications in the formation of a solidified biblical worldview. The process builds from day one with foundational learning and develops a strong awareness of how God is at work in our culture today. It builds confidence in a believer and in the ability to confront the culture in ways that reflect the heart of Jesus and are anchored in His Word. The experience that God takes you through as He speaks through authors, speakers, and your devotional time is powerful. Every individual needs this process in order to construct a solid, defendable, consistent biblical worldview.

Todd Jacobs (C14) - El Dorado Hills, CA

I was confident in my decision to enroll in the Colson Fellows Program, but I had no idea about the depth of the journey I was about to embark upon. From the daily devotionals, to the webinars and the opportunity to study with others who are diving deeper into the facets of a Biblical worldview, this is a rich 10-month program – and I'm wealthier for it. Since completing the Colson Fellows Program, I can confidently and winsomely discuss the history of thought, differing worldviews and the ever-present questions about the meaning of life. The Colson Fellows Program challenged me, stretched me and strengthened me. The program not only revealed truth to me, but it also revealed truth about me, which was an unexpected thrill of the program. I confidently recommend the Colson Fellows Program to my friends who would like to take their Christian faith and their impact to another level. Julie Hildebrand (C14) - Dallas, TX

d d v/s e From homeschool moms, public school teachers and college professors to pastors, CEOs, artists, and university presidents, Colson Fellows represent Christians from every walk of life who desire to understand the culture and know how to live and act faithfully within their respective spheres of influence.

The Colson Fellows Program has been a defining event in my life. As a Millennial, I feel not only confident to defend my biblical worldview before peers, but also inspired to share it with others. It has given the rest of my life focus and direction in an otherwise confusing and aimless culture.

Kenneth Crane (C16) - Colorado Springs, CO

I expected the Program to be intellectually sound, but I didn't expect as much personal spiritual growth. From the beginning, I was impressed at the extensive spiritual training that I received, along with studying and reading the books. It was wonderful for me to see inquisitive Christians from various Christian traditions come together and deeply think about what their faith applied to in our current culture.

Sophia Kuby (C16) - Vienna, Austria

The Colson Fellows Program was life-changing for me. It has changed how I view everything. The program also helped develop a deeper love of learning. The Colson Fellows Program also has called me to action. I can no longer sit passively by watching and talking about what Christians should do, I am now thinking about what can I do.

Nathan Perkins (C14) - Mars Hill, NC





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