**Michael J. Rhodes**

**Address:**

Michael Rhodes

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**Summary:**

Current Lecturer in Old Testament at Carey Baptist College, teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, as well as supervising MA theses. Scholar-practitioner with 5 years of experience designing and teaching biblical studies, mission, and community development courses at the undergraduate level at the Memphis College of Urban and Theological Studies, and 11 years of experience living and working in low-income communities in Memphis and Kenya. Published scholarly and popular-level work in the areas of biblical studies and economic ethics, and regularly speaks at conferences and leads workshops on community development, mission, economic ethics, and the bible.

**Education:**

PhD in Divinity- Trinity College Bristol/University of Aberdeen (Fall 2015-Summer 2019)

Dissertation: “Formative Feasting: Practices and Economic Ethics in the Deuteronomic Tithe Meal and Corinthian Lord’s Supper”

Supervisors: Craig Bartholomew, D. Stephen Long

Dissertation Examiners: Brent Strawn, Phil Ziegler

MA in Biblical Studies- Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (Spring 2011-Spring 2015)

GPA: 4.0

BA with majors in International Economic Community Development and English

Minor in Economics

Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA (2004-2008)

GPA of 3.88 on a 4.0 scale.

**Publications:**

* Michael Rhodes, “Becoming Militants of Reconciling Love: 1 John 3:1-3 and the Task of Ethical Formation,” *Journal for Theological Interpretation* (forthcoming, 2021).
* Michael Rhodes, “(Becoming) Lovers in a Dangerous Time: Discipleship as Gift and Task in 1 John,” *Word & World* 41.1 (2021).
* Michael Rhodes, *Justice Unto Victory: Exegetical Explorations in Moral Formation*. Under contract with IVP Academic.
* Michael Rhodes, “Arranging the Chairs in the Beloved Community: The Politics, Problems, and Prospects of Multi-Racial Churches in 1 Corinthians and Today,” *Studies in Christian Ethics*, 2019.
* Michael Rhodes and Robby Holt, with Brian Fikkert, *Practicing the King’s Economy: Honoring Jesus in How We Work, Earn, Spend, Save, and Give* (Baker; 2018).
* Brian Fikkert and Michael Rhodes, “Homo Economicus Versus Homo Imago Dei,” *Journal of Markets & Morality*, (2017).
* Michael Rhodes, “‘Forward Unto Virtue’: Formative Practices and 1 Corinthians 11:17-34,” *Journal for Theological Interpretation* (2017).
* Michael Rhodes, “‘Follow Us As We Follow Moses’: Learning Biblical Economics from the New Testament’s Appropriation of Old Testament Narratives, Practices and Liturgies” in *Ecclesia and Ethics*, E. Allen Jones et. al, eds. (T & T Clark, 2016)
* Michael Rhodes, Andrew Vincent, and Mark Bowers, *Work Life* (biblically-integrated workforce development curriculum, published by the Chalmers Center).

**Selected Scholarly Presentations and Activity:**

* Committee Member of the Missional Hermeneutics Unit of the Society for Biblical Literature (2018-Present)
* “Becoming Militants of Reconciling Love: Moral Ontology, Ethical Formation, and 1 John 2:28-3:3,” paper to be presented to the Johannine Literature session of the Society for Biblical Literature, November 2019
* “Arranging the Chairs in the Beloved Community: The Politics, Problems, and Prospects of Multi-Racial Congregations in 1 Corinthians and Today,” paper presented to the Missional Hermeneutics session of the Society for Biblical Literature, November 2018
* “Feasting for Fear of YHWH: Moral Formation and Embodied Learning at the Tithe Meal of Deuteronomy 14:22-29,” paper presented to the Meals in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament session of the Society for Biblical Literature, November 2017

**Selected Popular Publications and Presentations**

* “Gleaning, Good Jobs, and Kingdom Economics,” Christian Community Development Association Mainstage Presentation, 2015
* “Money-God’s Way,” interview on “In the Market with Janet Parshall,” 2018
* “Michael Rhodes Interview,” Seminary Dropout podcast, 2019
* *Practicing the King’s Economy* online course, published by the Chalmers Center for Economic Development, 2019
* “God’s Battle for Your Bank Account,” *Christianity Today*, 2018
* “Practicing the King’s Economy,” Faith, Work, and Rest Podcast, 2019
* “Economic Discipleship,” Uncommontary Podcast, 2019
* “God’s Kingdom has a Startling Economic System,” The Gospel Coalition (with Robby Holt), 2018
* “Gleaning Toward the King Jesus Economy,” Red Letter Christians, 2016
* “The Old Testament on Justice,” Evangelicals for Social Action, 2019

**Professional Experience:**

* *Lecturer in Old Testament,* Carey Baptist College Present

Teaching undergraduate courses in the Old Testament, as well as postgraduate courses. Responsible for supervising MA theses.

* *Director of Community Transformation*, Memphis College of Urban 2015-2020

and Theological Studies at Union University (previously MCUTS@LBC)

Taught courses in Bible, ethics, urban mission, and community development to adult undergraduate students, and led the Community Transformation department’s community engagement efforts.

* + Created and piloted a 12-credit hour *Certificate in Community Transformation*.
  + Launched a variety of Community Transformation initiatives, including piloting church-based matched-savings programs, creating and implementing numerous professional development training opportunities for church and non-profit leaders, and city-wide entrepreneurship training.
  + Courses designed and taught include:
    - Ethics
    - Wisdom Literature
    - Urban Mission Theology
    - Biblical Theology of the Marginalized
    - Church & Community Development I
    - Church & Community Development II
    - Theology of Faith, Work, and Wealth
  + Co-chaired the planning committees for the 2018, 2019, and 2020 Urban Summit conference (annual attendance of approximately 300 attendees)
    - Designed and implemented the Summit Marketplace and Pitch Competition for minority-owned businesses and social entrepreneurs.
* *Director of Education*, Advance Memphis 2011-2015

Facilitated adult education programs in workforce development, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and GED prep; managed a team of up to 5 staff; oversaw staff and volunteer training; and led curriculum development efforts.

* *Project Coordinator*, Planting Faith Ministries 2009-2010

Managed and designed agricultural development projects among small-scale farmers in partnership with the Anglican Church in Central Kenya

**Church Experience:**

* *Downtown Church (EPC)-* Served in a variety of capacities, including as a member of the preaching team, community group leader for 5 years in South Memphis, Sunday School teacher, member of the church’s first diaconate, and currently as an ordained minister.
* *New City Fellowship Nairobi*- Served in an unofficial pastoral internship role, including preaching, teaching, and worship leading.
* *Second Presbyterian Church* and *North Shore Fellowship-* Youth leader for middle school students in both volunteer and paid roles.

**References:**

Craig Bartholomew, Executive Director of the Kirby Laing Institute for Christian Ethics, [craig.bartholomew@gmail.com](mailto:craig.bartholomew@gmail.com)

D. Stephen Long, Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics, Southern Methodist University, [sdlong@mail.smu.edu](mailto:sdlong@mail.smu.edu)

Brent A. Strawn, Professor of Old Testament, Duke Divinity, [brent.strawn@duke.edu](mailto:brent.strawn@duke.edu)

Brian Fikkert, Professor of Economics and Community Development and Founder/President of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development, Covenant College, [brian.fikkert@chalmers.org](mailto:brian.fikkert@chalmers.org)

Richard Rieves, Pastor of Downtown Church (EPC), [Richard@downtownchurch.com](mailto:Richard@downtownchurch.com)