Course Name: 222 – Theological Heritage II: Early Church

Instructor
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Number of Books: 2

Book Titles (with author and ISBN number):

Pre-Work Assignment:
Please read Roberta C. Bondi, To Love as God Loves, chapter 2 (“Love”). It can be found using the Summer Course of Study Duke Box. The material that she presents centers on the beginnings of Christian monasticism in the 3rd and 4th centuries. This movement took several forms, but always involved withdrawing from the larger culture in some significant way. As you read, reflect on the ways in which these early Christians sought to love both God and neighbor. What is the relationship, for the monks, between these two great commandments? Does their withdrawal to the desert in order to love and serve God seem to stand in tension or harmony with the call to love and serve one’s neighbor? Does it seem to you that they succeed in fulfilling both commandments? Or does the pursuit of one often eclipse the pursuit of other? Write a reflection addressing these questions (max. 2 pages double-spaced). Use a few specific examples from the text. Due Monday, July 20, at the start of class.

In preparation for our first sessions, please also read Justo Gonzalez, The Story of Christianity, Chapters 5-12.