

JESUS SEMINAR ON THE ROAD



Sahuarita, Arizona

February 24–25, 2012



THE SOCIAL WORLD OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

ART DEWEY & JOANNA DEWEY

Lecture

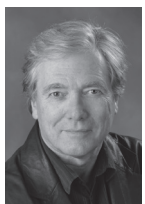
From Jesus to Constantine: From Disunity to Unity

The myth of Christian origins maintains that early Christianity was a unity, a loving community. But far back into the mists of emerging Christianity, what we see is conflict and controversy. In this lecture we will examine the plurality and diversity in early Christian belief, why Christianity grew, why it succeeded and how Constantine imposed unity on the believers. (Arthur Dewey)

◆ **Friday evening, 7:30–9 P.M.**



Joanna Dewey (Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union) is the Harvey H. Guthrie, Jr. Professor Emerita of Biblical Studies at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is the author of several books, including *Mark as Story* (with David Rhoads, 1999).



Arthur J. Dewey (Th.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Theology, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, co-founder of the Healing Deadly Memories Program, and co-author of *The Authentic Letters of Paul* (with Roy Hoover & Lane McGaughy, 2010) also co-author of *The Complete Gospel Parallels* (with Bob Miller).

The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

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All events at:

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Workshops

Social World of the Roman Empire and its Christian Communities

We will examine the social/economic structure of the Roman Empire and the place(s) of women and slaves within it. We will survey the various roles women played in early Christian communities. The session will include a performance of “Women on the Way,” a rendition of the Gospel of Mark, as Artemisia, an imaginary late first century woman, might have told it. We will also look at the roles of slaves in early churches. Finally we will explore the forces that resulted in the increasing subordination of women and slaves in some Christian communities. (Joanna Dewey)

◆ **Saturday, 9:30–noon**

Imperial Images in Stone and Song

The dominant power in the ancient world was Rome and its Emperor. This dominance was not just military and political, but also ideological. Rome set the terms of debate. The recognition of this imperial influence is important in understanding the emergence of the Christian movement. We will examine imperial images to understand the meaning of the Roman Empire and then explore the early Christian hymn embedded in Paul’s letter to the Philippians for its imperial imagery. Finally we will turn our attention to how Constantine turned the church into an empire. (Arthur Dewey)

Implications for Contemporary Christianity

What does the active role of women and slaves in early Christianity tell us about the possible configurations contemporary Christianity might take? How might we begin to learn from the diversity of the past? From its strengths and its weaknesses? How might we respond to today’s “empire?” (Joanna Dewey and Arthur Dewey)

◆ **Saturday, 1:30–4 P.M.**

REGISTRATION FEES

All Sessions

Pre-registration (by Feb 10, 2012)	\$60
Registration (after Feb 10, 2012)	\$75
Additional Family Member	\$50

Single Sessions

Friday Evening Lecture	\$20
Saturday Morning Workshop	\$30
Saturday Afternoon Workshop	\$30

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Friday Evening Lecture	\$20	_____	_____
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