

March 24, 1960

Dr. J. Richard Spann
Box 871
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Dr. Spann,

I recall with pleasure our conversation when you were in Dallas several months ago. At that time you suggested that I write down topics of two or three areas in which I might be prepared to teach in a pastor's school.

I have thought about this sporadically since I talked with you, but never could quite settle on the topics. With summer rapidly approaching, however, I thought that I should not delay in writing you, so the following are a number of possibilities from which I thought you might wish to choose--that is, if there is a pastor's school where my services are needed.

The courses I teach at Perkins are chiefly in the area of theology and Christian ethics. The two generalized topics which I think I would be prepared to teach would be:

- I. Contemporary Theology
- II. Christian Ethics

If this is too general, however, there are a number of more specific areas of inquiry which I am interested in, and which might be more interesting to others. These include:

- III. The Church Between the East and West
- IV. Christian Obedience
- V. Theology of Stewardship
- VI. Christianity and Contemporary Art
- VII. Kierkegaard and the Preacher

These are some of my interests. If you can use them let me know.

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You suggested that I also include a brief biographical sketch. The following is a blurb which I have used before:

"Professor Oden is a teacher of theology and ethics at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. His doctoral studies were done at Yale. He worked there as a graduate assistant to the distinguished theologian, H. Richard Niebuhr. His undergraduate work was done at the University of Oklahoma, where he became a member of Phi Beta Kappa. After receiving a B.D. from Perkins School of Theology with high honors, he was elected by the faculty of Perkins to receive the Moore Fellowship. During his graduate studies at Yale, he was elected as a Kent fellow of the National Council on Religion in Higher Education. He is an ordained Methodist minister, and a member of the Oklahoma Conference. He is a native of Oklahoma, and has served pastorates in Oklahoma and Texas".

Best wishes to you, Dr. Spann. If I can serve meaningfully in a pastor's school, I would be pleased to do so.

Very cordially yours,

Thomas C. Oden

