



Bringing the Bible to Life

Biblical Counseling Workshops

**Role of the Church in
Counseling**
Track II.7



The Role of the Church in Counseling

Agenda:

- What is Biblical Counsel/Soul-care?
- The goal Biblical Counsel/Soul-care?
- What is the church?
- What is the purpose of the church?
- Function of the Church
- The Role of the church in counseling



What is Biblical Counsel/Soul-care?

If counseling means to speak into someone's life (including your own life thru thoughts in introspection), then biblical counseling is simply wisely speaking words that reflect the wisdom, truth, hope, comfort and encouragement that is rooted in the Word of God *for practical application* that shapes one's perspectives, defines purpose, teaches accurately and equips the hearer to rightly respond to circumstances in a God-glorifying way.
(From Track II.1, slide #6)

- That is, to speak the way Christ spoke



What is Biblical Counsel/Soul-care?

- Biblical soul-care is the practice of training believers toward greater Christ-likeness through the intentional ministry of the Scriptures for the glory of God.
- Biblical soul-care is Gospel-centered & Christ-exalting, compassionate burden-bearing through the focused ministry of the Word of God, enabled by the Holy Spirit and prayer.
- Biblical soul-care is intentional discipleship.
- *Ekklesia* → Greek - “called out ones” (occurs many times in the NT; Gospels, Acts, Paul’s writings, & Revelations)



The Goal of Biblical Soul-Care

Cultivating a Heart of Worship

- Changing **Perspective**
- Embracing God's **Purposes**
- **Learning lessons** from the trial
- **Responding** in ways that **please & glorify God**

Simply put, to help the individual know, embrace and live out their purpose in life.

To do anything less is unloving, unbiblical & detrimental to the soul.



What is the Church?

- “*The nature of the church is far too broad to be exhausted in the meaning of the one word ekklesia. To describe its manifold meaning the New Testament writers employed numerous descriptive expressions. They explained the concept of the church both in literal terms and in rich metaphorical descriptions. This richness of description precludes a narrow concept of the church and warns against magnification of one aspect to the disregard of others.*” *The Church in God’s Program*, 19.



Metaphors and Descriptions of the Church

- The church is...a Mystery
- The church is...The Body of Christ
- The church is...The Temple of God
- The church is...A Royal Priesthood
- The church is...The Elect of God
- The church is...The Bride of Christ
- The church is...The Flock of God
- The church is...The Dwelling Place of God (Eph.2:22)
- The church is...The Branches of the Vine



Metaphors and Descriptions of the Church

- The church is...The People of God
- The church is...The Members of Christ
- The church is...The Fellowship of the Spirit
- The church is...The Family of God
- The church is...The Pillar and Foundation of the Truth
- The church is...the Dearest Creation and Possession of God
- The church is an assembly of...Believers, the Faithful
- The church is an assembly of...Disciples
- The church is an assembly of...Christians
- The church is an assembly of...Brethren



The Church is Made up of Called-out People

“Technically speaking, …people do not worship “at a church” or participate “in church” – they are the church! And if you are a member of the body of Christ, you do not “go to church” or “sit in church” – you are a part of the church who comes together for worship with the rest of the body. This is important to understand because the quality of a church is therefore not measured by the condition of its buildings or the appeal of its services, but by the state of the people themselves. They are the church, so the church is only as good as they are.” *Life in the Father’s House*, 12.



The Church is Made up of Called-out People

“it’s not a building. It’s not a preaching point. It’s not a spiritual service provider. [It’s not a denomination.] It’s a people—the new covenant, blood-bought people of God. That’s why Paul said, “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her’ (Eph 5:25). He didn’t give himself up for a place, but for a people.”

What is a Healthy Church, 34.



The Purpose and Function of the Church

Reflect the image of God:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . ." (Gen.1:26)

Worship

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19)



The Purpose and Function of the Church

Give God glory

...you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Cor. 6:20)

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. (1 Cor. 10:31)

so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. (Eph. 1:12)

to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.
(Eph. 3:20



The Purpose and Function of the Church

Doctrinal teaching, instruction, training, discipling, discipline

Acts 2:42

Jude 3

1 Tim. 1:3, 5; 4:6; 5:17; 6:2,17

2 Tim.2:2

Matt. 28:19-20

Matt. 18:15ff (discipline)



The Purpose and Function of the Church

Proclaiming the Gospel to the world (Missions)



The Purpose and Function of the Church

Ministry to itself

Eph. 4:11

Rom. 12:3-8

Meeting needs Rom. 12:8; Gal. 6:1-2



The Purpose and Function of the Church

Edification, Exhortation & Comfort

1 Cor. 14:3

1 Thess. 5:11



The Purpose and Function of the Church



The Purpose and Function of the Church



Sanctify:

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- **Unify & Edify (build up believers in the faith):**

Ephesians 4:12-16 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



- **Show mercy and build relationships** (vertical and horizontal):

Matthew 22:37-40 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Luke 6:35-36 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (c.f. 1 Jn. 5:16-18)

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law . . . "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.



What does the church do or is suppose to do?

- **Reconcile:**

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:19-22 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

- **Restore:**

Galatians 6:1 if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.



The Role of the Church in Counseling

Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

1 Peter 5:10 And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Represent:

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Timothy 1:13 Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Titus 2:7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, . . .



How does the church fulfill what it does or is suppose to do?

- ***Reconciliation (salvation) takes place in the church by:***
 - Evangelism (Matthew 10:7, Mark 16:15-16)
 - Preaching (Acts 8:4, Romans 10:14)
- ***Restoration (progress sanctification) takes place in the church by:***
 - Teaching (Nehemiah 8:8, Acts 20:20, Hebrews 5:12)
 - Discipleship (disciplined training or counseling)
(Matthew 28:20a, Luke 6:40, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5a, Colossians 1:28)
- ***Representation (serving Christ & others) takes place in the church by:***
 - Ministry (Ephesians 4:12)
 - Service (Galatians 5:13, Romans 12:11)



So, where and how does the church fit into counseling?

1. The church is commissioned (by Christ) to evangelize and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20):

- Evangelism . . . is a form of counseling (counseling someone to see their need for a savior, Christ), which can be from the pulpit on Sunday mornings (a pastor shepherding his flock) or someone in a coffee shop sharing the Good News
- Discipleship = Counseling (counseling is more focused and usually more intense than discipleship . . . One-on-One . . . and can be on one specific topic)



2. The church (people) and specifically the local church (body of believers) is the one who is commissioned to:

- Minister the Word of God, teach (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- Admonish (Colossians 3:16)
- Encourage (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Strengthen (Colossians 1:10-12)
- Do one-anothers (Romans 12:10, 14:13, 15:5, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:32, 5:21, Phil 2:3, ...)
- Equip its people for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- Discipline (Matthew 18:15-17)

This is why the primary role in the counseling process needs to be the church and that the counseling process needs to be under the supervision and leadership of the local church.



- 3. The church (people) is the place for corporate worship . . . singing, praying, hearing the Word, partaking of communion, and praising and glorifying God together with other brothers and sisters in Christ! (Acts 2:42, 1 Timothy 4:31, Ephesians 5:19)**
- 4. Finally, the church (people) is also where you can be fully integrated into the life of the body and find fellowship, be able to build others up, and to serve together (Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 John 1:6-7, 1 Peter 4:10)**

Again, do you see why the church and counseling go hand-in-hand? In essence, what the church is to do and how to do it . . . is really counseling (and vice-a-versa)! When this is taking place, the church (people) can ultimately fulfill its purpose . . . to glorify God, to worship Him, practice progressive sanctification, . . .



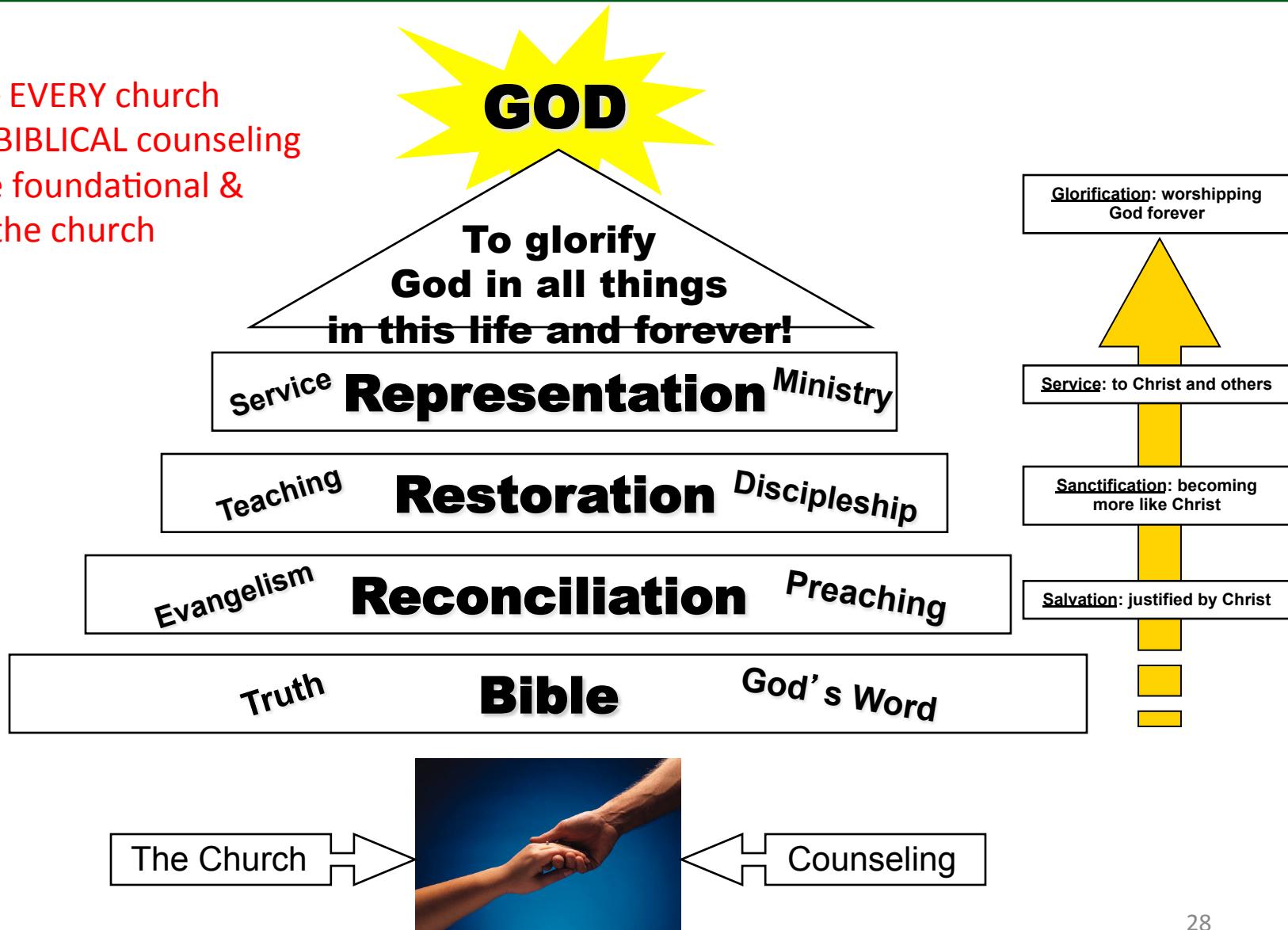
Biblical counseling:

- Begins with practical evangelism
- Comfort (compassion)
- Admonish (counsel against, reprove)
- Restore (bring back)
- Teach (build up)
- Support (follow-up)



The Church IS what Counseling is all about!

Summary – EVERY church counsels - BIBLICAL counseling needs to be foundational & integral to the church





Homework

- Summarize your main take-aways from this session, especially noting any areas that were either unclear to you or that you might disagree.
- Lesson #9 *Fundamentals of the Faith* workbook

Going Deeper

- Memorize Eph. 4:22-24 and Heb. 3:12-12



Next Classes

- Track II.8 *Qualifications of a Biblical Counselor*
- Track II.9 *Getting to Heart Issues*
- Track II.10 *Secular and Integration Theories*



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