

How to Implement Biblical Counseling in Your Church

EIBCC Meeting - March 17, 2016

- I. **STEP 1: OVERCOME FEAR (see handout)**
- II. **STEP 2: ESTABLISH THE PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY**

A. What Biblical Counseling is *NOT*

1. It is not an optional ministry (Rom. 15:4; Col. 1:27-2:4; Acts 20:26-32)
2. It is not an independent ministry of the church.
3. It is not something that only "experts" can do.
4. It is not characterized by insensitivity. (1 Thess. 2:7-8; 11-12)

B. What Biblical Counseling *IS*

1. It recognizes the Bible as foundational to all counseling.
2. It recognizes the Bible as sufficient for all the issues of life.
 - a) Sufficiency is as important as Inerrancy (2 Pt. 1:3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - b) Special Revelation has greater authority than General Revelation

Helpful Articles by David Powlison: "Which Presuppositions? Secular Psychology and the Categories of Biblical Thought," *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 1984, Vol. 12:4, 270-278. "Cure of Souls (and the Modern Psychotherapies)," *Journal of Biblical Counseling*, 2007, Vol. 25:2, 5-36.

3. It understands sanctification from a perspective of heart issues versus behavioral modification (Lk. 6:45; Mt. 15:17-20; Prov. 4:23)

III. **STEP 3: CREATE AWARENESS OF THE NEED**

- A. To restore the Church to prominence in the calling of soul care
- B. To alleviate pastoral overwhelm
- C. To more fully utilize the diverse gifts of the Body
- D. To tangibly do the work of disciplemaking !
- E. To build a church culture of authentic community, grace and transformation
- F. To prepare your church for greater outreach in a broken culture

IV. STEP 4: GRADUALLY TAKE NEXT STEPS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- A. KEY: Focus on agreement and gradually show how biblical counseling already fits in
- B. Start with yourself
- C. Be content with mustard seed influence
- D. Connect with like-minded friends at other churches for encouragement and support
- E. Consider not calling it "counseling," at least at first.
- F. Read on the subject and pass out materials
- G. Get more training and take key leaders along with you.
- H. Start a CCEF and/or Faith Resource ministry
- I. Offer broad-based classes
- J. Always have an "advocate"
- K. Tell stories to your congregation
- L. Offer specific training in your church to counselors and advocates and potential leaders
- M. Equip small group leaders in the basics of Soul Care
- N. Work on ACBC certification and encourage others to do so.
- O. Just Do It!
- P. HELPFUL RESOURCES:
 - 1. EIBCC - eibcc.org
 - 2. BCC - biblicalcounselingcoalition.org
 - 3. ACBC - biblicalcounseling.com
 - 4. CCEF - ccef.org
 - 5. **Biblical Counseling Training Conference** in North Liberty - faithlafayette.org/conferences
Dates: Sept. 23-24; Oct. 14-15; Nov. 18-19 2016
 - 6. Materials:
 - a) *How People Change* - Tripp and Lane (and Workbook/Class)
 - b) *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* - Tripp and Lane (and wkbook/class)
 - c) *Seeing with New Eyes* - David Powlison
 - d) *Blame It on the Brain?* - Ed Welch
 - e) *Christ-Centered Biblical Counseling* - James MacDonald
 - f) *Counseling the Hard Cases* - Scott, Lambert & MacArthur
 - g) *Counterfeit Gods* - Tim Keller
 - h) *Uncommon Community* (DVD) - Garrett Higbee (Harvest Bible Chapel)
 - i) *Biblical Soul Care for the Local Church* (DVD) - Higbee (Harvest)