

ADVOCACY IN BIBLICAL COUNSELING

EQUIPPING YOUR PEOPLE FOR DISCIPLEMAKING

Ephesians 4: 11-16, II Corinthians 5:11-21

EIBCC Monthly Training: Dave Kirk
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"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Proverbs 17:17

"As isolated individuals, we cannot reach the level of maturity God has destined for us. It only happens as we live in a loving, **redemptive community** where we celebrate the many facets of the gospel." Paul Tripp

What is advocacy and what does an advocate do?

Leveraging biblical community and the one another to help the redemptive sanctification process of counselees in order to make disciples to make disciples.

Advocates encourage, pray for counselees, come to counseling appointments with the counselee, give insight for the counselor and counselee in the counseling room, do homework with the counselee, hold counselees accountable, and share the testimony of what God is doing.

Why advocacy?

1. *Fulfill and multiply the Great Commission in the church*
2. *Leverage the advocate's prospective in the counseling room*
3. *Build up the body of Christ*
4. *Provide support, encouragement, hope, and grace-filled accountability for the counselee*
5. *Expedite the counseling process, and set the counselee up for better long-term spiritual health*

Who is an advocate?

- They love God, His Word and other people.
- They could be graduated counselees.
- They are small group members.
- They are servants and laborers in your ministry programs.

10 ways to train advocates

1. Develop a series of equipping classes and go to conferences that teach how to care for and disciple others.
2. Involve your people in small groups or community groups that have a time of accountability and sharing.
3. Preach about the importance of biblical community in the lives of your people on a regular basis. Mention regularly in your sermons.
4. Train your staff to care for one another and give them space to do this.
5. If your counselee is in a community group, invite them to bring an advocate from their community group to counseling.
6. Take short term mission trip where the goal of the trip is relational care and support of the people you serve.
7. Have children's ministries and youth ministry lay leaders be responsible for caring for a table or group of kids throughout the school year.
8. Invite people who you want to be advocates into the counseling room to observe, with permission from the counselee.
9. Assign prayer partners in community groups and on staff team.
10. Build a library of recommended books that your people can access.

Resources:

1. *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making* by Paul Tripp and Tim Lane
2. *Brothers, We are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry* by John Piper
3. *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul Tripp
4. *Biblical Soul Care for the Local Church* by Garrett Higbee
5. *Uncommon Community for Small Groups* by Garrett Higbee