

Biblical Counseling

Fundamentals Part 3 and Introduction to The Process for
Biblical Change

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The Truth about Accountability

You cannot keep someone from committing suicide

You cannot keep someone from looking at porn

You cannot keep someone from drinking or taking drugs

You cannot keep someone from getting a divorce

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The Truth about Accountability

Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹ “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

¹⁰ “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

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The Truth about Accountability

True change only comes from the hand of God

Ephesians 1:11

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...

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The Benefits of Having a Right Understanding of God's Role in Counseling

We must be dependent on Him

We must use His resources

We must trust His perfect timing and purposes

We must give Him thanks for His work

We must NEVER think that we are agents of change!

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God's Plans Perfectly Fulfilled

Job 42:2

² “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

Isaiah 46:9–10

⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,
¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose’...

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Maintain Healthy Standards in Counseling

Romans 13:14

14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Ephesians 5:8

8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light

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Maintain Healthy Standards in Counseling

Schedule your time wisely

Don't fall into the trap of the tyranny of the urgent.

Understand the nature of a true crisis

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The Process of Biblical Change

The Gospel – Get it Right!

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What is the Gospel?

Recognize that there is a Holy Creator God

Recognize my sinfulness and the spiritual consequence

Understand the truth about Jesus

Repent and Believe

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What does it mean to repent?

Mark 1:14–15

¹⁴ Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God,
¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Repentance is a change of mind and a change of direction.

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What does it mean to believe?

Romans 10:9–10

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

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What does it mean to believe?

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Isaiah 53:11

¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

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Counseling and the Gospel

The Gospel is essential to give anyone hope

The Gospel provides the resources to live as God intends

A Relationship with God

The Holy Spirit

Understanding of God's Word

A New Understanding of Life

New Priorities

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Getting to the Gospel – The Challenge

The conversation immediately goes to the life challenge.

A person gives a weak testimony that is awkward to address.

You assume that someone is a Christian

The Gospel is not the priority that it should be in your life.

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Gospel-Centered Counseling

Acts 20:24

²⁴ “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

Romans 1:16

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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Gospel-Centered Counseling

1 Corinthians 9:16

¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.

Philippians 1:27

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...

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Gospel-Centered Counseling

What is the value of sharing the Gospel with the lost?

What is the value of sharing the Gospel with the saved?