

Offering Hope to the City2

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10:45 AM

Keywords: biblical counseling, discipleship, psychology

Scripture: Misc.

SermonAudio Blurb: In this sermon P. Bruce continues where he left off last week and then elaborates on what an integrated system of discipleship\counseling looks like at Missio Dei Fellowship.

Introduction

A. Offering Hope to the City

1. MDF's missionial offer of free Biblical Counseling at MDF
2. Requires attendance at MDF
3. Requires a filled out application available on the MDF website
4. Requires word of mouth advertising

B. Are you persuaded that the Scriptures speak to all the problems that are common to man?

1. How does the Gospel apply to discipleship ministry? What is Progressive Sanctification?
2. Theology, not psychology is the key in counseling that is Gospel centered and biblical.

C. Biblical Counseling is intensely focused personal discipleship.

1. Sometimes motivated by a crisis
2. Sometimes motivated by a long-standing issue
3. Sometimes just a how to via biblical wisdom.

D. Where do you fit in?

1. The necessity of equipping
 - a. The importance of Community Group
 - b. Yearly classes in summer that equip discipler\counselors
 - 1) Gospel-Centered Counseling-How Christ Changes Lives this summer (Robert W. Kellemen)
 - c. Opportunity to go to Faith Baptist church for further equipping

E. Preaching the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ (Col. 1-2)

1. Paul's public and private ministry of the word

2. Awareness of plausible arguments

I. Loose Ends

A. Christ is at the Center of all True Christian Counseling

Jesus Christ is at the center of all true Christian counseling. Any counseling which moves Christ from that position of centrality has to the extent that it has done so ceased to be Christian. We know of Christ and His will in the Word. Let us turn to Scripture, therefore, to discover what directions Christ, the King and Head of the Church, has given concerning the counseling of people with personal problems. Jay Adams

1. Because Christ is at the center of all true Christian counseling we need to be good theologians, not psychologists.
2. The Bible has the answers to the problems we face.
3. Biblical counseling is Gospel-centered and seeks to apply gospel-centered solutions to the problems we face.
4. The goal of Biblical Counseling is give a person hope (Jesus).
5. Biblical counseling is discipleship ministry that is often intensely focused.

B. The problem with the secular therapeutic models of counseling

1. No Christ, no God, man centered,
2. 250 theories about why we are the way we are.

C. Christ among other gods

1. Recovery models (AA)
2. Recovery models with Christ still "me centered" (Celebrating Recovery)
 - a. Christian counseling that pastes Scripture to therapy.
 - 1) Here's the theory; now here's the passage that is pasted over the theory, often out of context
 - 2) Christian psychologists often have advanced degrees in psychology but Sunday School education in theology.
 - 3) There are a number of credible psychologists who are dedicated biblical counselors and have "come over" to the sufficiency of Christ\Scripture in discipleship\counseling.
 - b. Secular psychology begins with who "are we" as does much of Christian counseling.
 - 1) Psychology is the lens by which Scripture is viewed rather than the other way around.

- 2) A discipler, warns, admonishes, teaches, instructs, counsels from their theology that is thoroughly biblical.
 - 3) Psychology is often times useful in describing things but woefully inadequate prescriptively.
3. You do not have to spend much time undermining psychology. Instead spend much time in proclaiming the supremacy of Christ and his excellence.

II. An Integrated System of Discipleship Counseling

A. Community Counsel

Church to world. This is what makes biblical counseling (OHTTC) missional.

1. Salt and Light (Matt. 5:13-16)

[13] "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. [14] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 ESV)

2. Rom. 15:14

[14] I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. (Romans 15:14 ESV)

3. Qualifications

- a. Be a Christian.
- b. Be committed to growing to be more like Christ (and doing it).
- c. Be genuinely concerned about the growth of other Christians (and the salvation of people)

1) Gal. 6:1-6

[1] Brothers, 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. [2] Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. [3] For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. [4] But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. [5] For each will have to bear his own load. [6] Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. (Galatians 6:1-6 ESV)

- 2) Force yourself to be a people person
- 3) Gal 6:1 help someone in a transgression
- 4) Help to bear another's burden (vs 2)

d. Be committed to pursuing wisdom

- 1) Access to the Book of Life and Life Application
- 2) Part of a church that takes equipping seriously (Eph. 4:11-16)

[11] And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] 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, [14] 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. [15] Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] 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. (Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV)

- a) Pastor Matt's sermons are full of counsel. Take notes!
- b) My equipping classes to get better at giving counsel.
- c) Lots of solid resources on the iNet many for free
 - [Biblical Counseling Coalition](http://biblicalcounselingcoalition.org) (biblicalcounselingcoalition.org)
 - [People Seeking Solutions](http://rickthomas.net) (Rickthomas.net)
 - [Biblical Counseling for Women](http://www.biblicalcounselingforwomen.org/)
 - <http://www.biblicalcounselingforwomen.org/>
 - [Association of Certified Biblical Counselors](http://www.biblicalcounseling.com/)
 - <http://www.biblicalcounseling.com/>
- a) Training opportunities outside of Missio
 - [Faith Baptist Church, Lafayette, IN](http://www.faithlafayette.org/church)
 - <http://www.faithlafayette.org/church>

B. Public Counsel

C. Group Counsel

D. Self-Counsel

E. Sought Counsel.

F. Unsought Counsel

III. Useful Scripture

A. Hebrews 4:12-13

[12] For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12 ESV)

6] Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. (Psalm 51:6 ESV)

B. 2 Peter 1:3-4

[3] His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, [4] by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. (2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)

C. 2 Tim 3:16-17

[16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:15-17 ESV)

D. Hebrews 10:24-25

[24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV)

E. 1 Thess. 2:8

[8] So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. (1 Thessalonians 2:8 ESV)

F. Php. 4:12-13

[12] I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13] I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:12-13 ESV)

G. Col. 1:28

[28] Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Colossians 1:28 ESV)

Questions for Community Groups

1. Describe how you would help a friend get free biblical counseling at MDF.
2. What is your attitude toward biblical counseling? Do you see it as a viable discipleship ministry? Do you believe the Scriptures are sufficient to deal with all the problems that are common to man? (If you do not don't be afraid to say so; just remain teachable and open to what your

leadership has to say on the subject)

3. What are the reasonable qualifications for a discipler\counselor?
4. Can you recall from P. Bruce's sermon some of the pitfalls of psychology?