

Handling Pastoral Issues Biblically

1. Pastoral Care, Counselling (and other problems words)



When we do not think about characteristic motivations, the counselee's 'relationship with God' tends to be approached chiefly through outward disciplines: devotional life, church attendance, and the like. When we do address the motivational issues biblically, the counselee's relationship with God becomes a counselling issue we can get our hands on.

David Powlison, The Biblical Counselling Movement: History and Context

What's happening in our churches?

A man in trouble...

Discuss: *What do you think of the way Dave's church has managed this situation? How true to life do you think this response might be?*

Something's not adding up....

The problem's not ignorance

The vending machine



The Gospel Gap

'Often there is a vast gap in our grasp of the gospel. It subverts our identity as Christians and our understanding of the present work of God.'

(Lane and Tripp, How People Change)

Where the gospel gap takes us...

Emphasis on behavioural change..

... external righteousness

... but unchanged hearts

Creating

...a culture of performance

...taking us away from gospel and toward religion

Fruit stapling



Sanctification

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3.18

The work of God's free grace whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God and are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness Shorter Westminster Catechism

A man in more trouble...

Pastoral Care

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things. Mark 6:34

Counselling

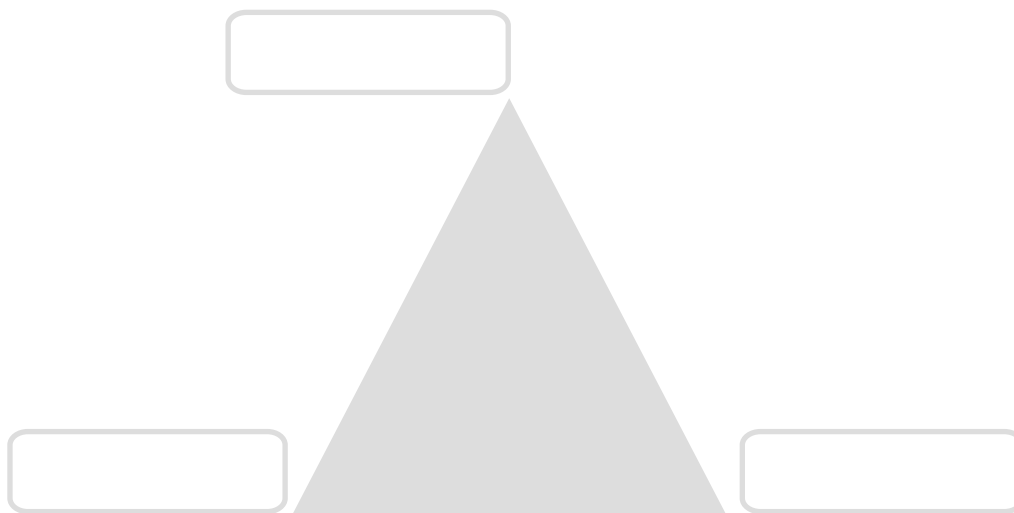
1. Ordinary

2. Happening



3. Self-propagating

4. A ministry of the word



Biblical Counselling

Biblical Counseling is the process where the Bible, God's Word, is related individually to a person or persons who are struggling under the weight of personal sin and/or the difficulties with suffering, so that he or she might genuinely change in the inner person to be pleasing to God

Faith Church, Lafayette

'God-centered, Bible-saturated, emotionally in-touch use of language to help people become God-besotted, Christ-exalting, joyfully self-forgetting lovers of people.'

John Piper

Christ-centred change, enabled by the Spirit, through the ministry of the Word, in the local church

Biblical Counselling UK

Further Reading

How People Change by Tim Lane and Paul Tripp (New Growth Press, 2008)

The Biblical Counselling Movement after Adams by Heath Lambert (Crossway 2012)

