

Handling Pastoral Issues Biblically

2. Counselling that reaches our hearts



Thus there is a difference between having an opinion that God is holy and gracious, and having a sense of the loveliness and beauty of that holiness and grace. There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet and having a sense of its sweetness.

Jonathan Edwards

Recap

1. The gospel gap
2. Fruit stapling won't do
3. The scale of pastoral care
4. The need for biblical counselling

Life in the detail

The traffic jam

For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.' Mark 7:21-23



The Heart

Back to Dave....

Discuss: what guesses might you have for the motivational basis for Dave's sexual indiscretion at work?

Conversational ministry

- Know the person you are talking to

- Jesus the master conversationalist



'Familial counselling'

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

The rebellious (*admonish the idle..*)

When you need to help someone straighten out, talk straight. Spell out right and wrong. Hold out God's justice, mercy, and power.

The fearful (*encourage the faint-hearted..*)

This one traffics in God's nearness, and the comfort of human nearness: 'He is with you. you are not alone. I know it's hard. I know you hurt, and it seems overwhelming and confusing. God is with us and He will see us through.'

The helpless (*help the weak..*)

Sometimes with the weak, the greatest sanctification occurs in those who show care, because the sufferers of weakness don't and can't change much.

Discuss: What is your tendency when you engage in conversation / counselling with others? What about your church?



