

Handling Pastoral Issues Biblically

3. Counselling that sees our circumstances



Troubling circumstances will always come. Life is hard. When difficult circumstances and our hearts meet, a conversation breaks out between the two – back and forth, back and forth – and the conversation can be wise and hopeful, or it can be foolishness that parades as wisdom.

Ed Welch, Side by Side

Conversational ministry

- So much of it
- So little attention
- The C-word

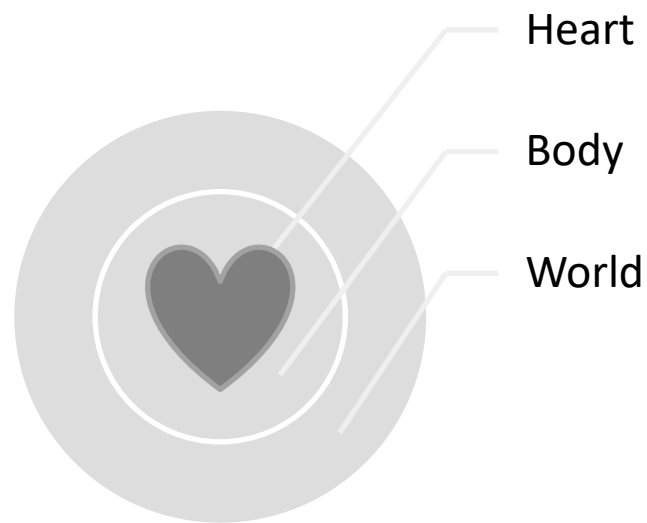
Life example: Adam

Discuss: What instructions from the Bible would seem appropriate in this situation?

Situations matter



Understanding people



Biblical Situations

“All that God disclosed of Himself has come in response to the practical religious needs of His people as these emerged in the course of history.”

Geerhardus Vos

Conversational ministry

1. Listening well

- Don't assume

- Ask another question

- Don't ask questions where you already know the answer

2. Speaking well

- Using the Bible well

- Notice the good

- See the Spirit on the move



- Know how to pray for another person
- Be able to say 'we'

3. The process of change

Worked examples

- Matt and Clare

- Sandra and Jen

Further Reading

Side by Side by Ed Welch (Crossway 2015)

The Pastor and Counseling by Deepak Reju and Jeremy Pierre (Crossway 2015)

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands by Paul Tripp (P&R Publishing 2002)

