

# Handling Pastoral Issues Biblically

## 4. Counselling that serves our churches

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*The final break-through to fellowship does not occur, because though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners. The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

*'When I say that we envision being a church of biblical counselling, that's just to say that one-anothering is normative in our church life.'* (Mike Wilkerson, Redemption Group Network)

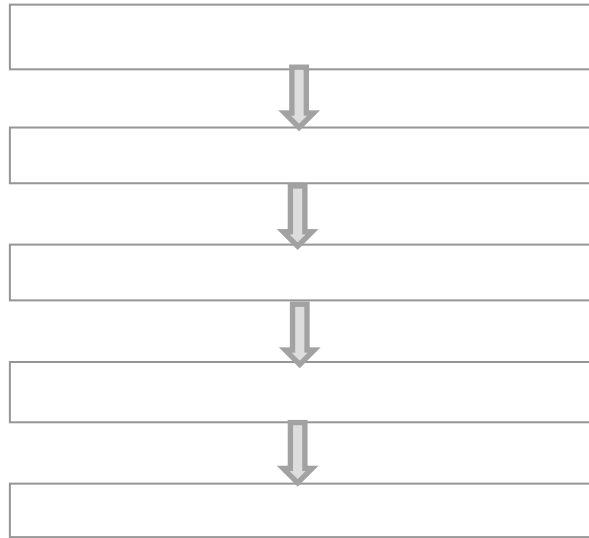
### Doing Church Badly

### An 'Ephesians 4' church

**Discuss:** *From Ephesians 4:1-16 find at least three ways in which God works to move his people to maturity*



## The path to maturity



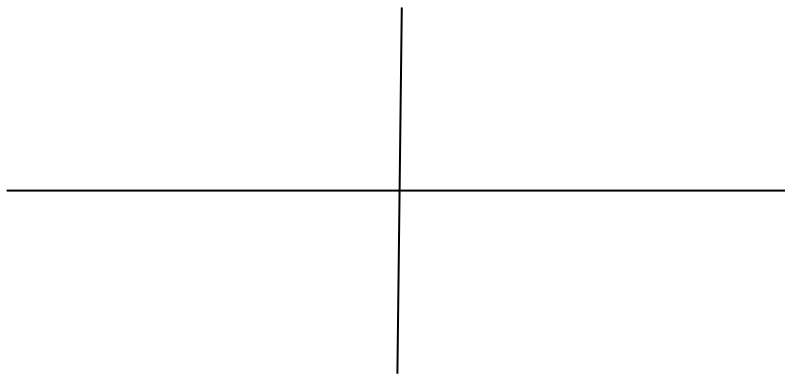
## Maturing the body of Christ

1. A 'one-anothering' ministry

2. A neglected ministry



### 3. A word ministry



### 4. A misunderstood ministry

### 5. A varied ministry

*Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. (Ephesians 4:29)*

### 6. An existing ministry

- **Discussion:** *If we wanted to improve the quality of the conversational ministry going on in our churches, what could we do?*



## Developing a culture of 'one-anothering'

1. Set a personal example
2. Increase our application
3. Improve our coffee!
4. Create contexts for honest conversation (mentor groups)
5. Fill all four quadrants
6. Revisit 'prayer ministry'
7. Encourage some training

## Further Reading

*Relationships: a mess worth making* by Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp (New Growth Press)

*Speaking the truth in love* by David Powlison (New Growth Press)

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