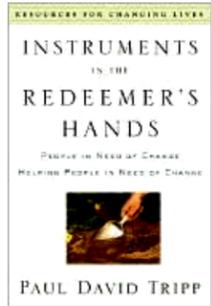
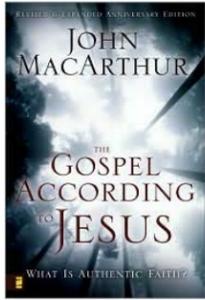


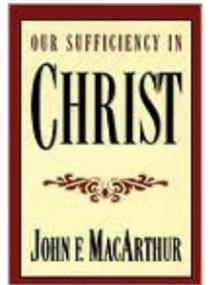
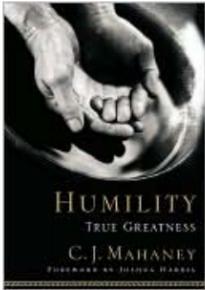
Featured Resources

“The Gospel According to Jesus,” by John MacArthur---If you get off on the wrong foot in life, things will get nasty rather quickly. Because when it comes to the gospel message being the difference between eternal life and eternal death, there is place more critical to start then getting the gospel right. In this classic work, Pastor MacArthur helps the reader think through the purity of the gospel, the reality of true authentic faith, and how one can avoid being on the wide and well traveled road that leads to destruction.



“Instruments In the Redeemer’s Hands,” by Paul Tripp---This very helpful book is written in an easy to read style that will help the reader understand the joys, the challenges, the reality of, and the process of counseling. It’s a great book for you to start off with if you want to figure out how to practice nouthetic ministry.

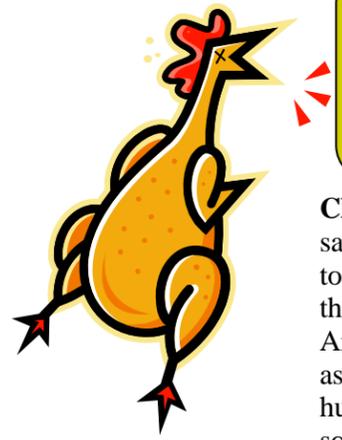
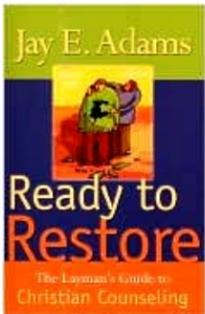
“Humility,” by CJ Mahaney---This is a critical topic in the life of the believer. Without this one quality, life will not change for any of us and we certainly won’t live for Christ as He both deserves and desires that we live. And without humility, you won’t make much of a counselor either. Mahaney makes a very simple, yet biblical challenge to you the reader to live humbly before God, to walk in humility, to live in humility and to experience the life that Christ offers.



“Our Sufficiency In Christ”, by John MacArthur---Pure Christianity needs no embellishment whatsoever. We find complete sufficiency in Christ and His provision for our needs. But too many Christians have bought in to the notion that all the spiritual resources we gain at the moment of salvation are not adequate to meet the real needs in today's complex world. So they look for something more--an emotionally exciting and self-edifying experience not found in God's Word. This failure to understand the sufficiency of Christ has opened the door to all kinds of worldly influences, causing many modern believers to mix biblical truths with seemingly helpful man-made methods such as mysticism and psychology. As a result, they wallow in a watered-down, pseudo-

Christianity that has been drained of its vitality, effectiveness, and security. In this book John MacArthur exposes the main ways Christians have displaced their spiritual resources and explains how to avoid making the same error. It will make you newly aware of how completely God provides--and give you a renewed understanding of what it means to be "complete in Christ."

“Ready To Restore,” by Jay Adams---You don’t have to be a professional counselor to help people solve problems. But you do have to understand the principles and practices of biblical counseling. Here is a guide to Christian counseling written specifically for laypeople. Jay E. Adams, a pioneer in the field of counseling, has taken the most essential elements of counseling and packaged them in this thorough but nontechnical volume. The result is neither simplistic nor superficial, but a complete, systematic course, useful for study groups, Bible colleges, church leaders, and individual study.



COMMUNITY OF GRACE BIBLICAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

Chick-Fil-A! Have you ever eaten there? It’s good food. And they aren’t even paying me to say that. My first exposure to Chick-Fil-A came by way of a TV commercial that perhaps, you too, have seen. In the commercial cows are seen parachuting into a football stadium. One of the cows directs her parachute so as to land in the seats, taking out a burger (beef) vendor. And the punch line is: “Eat Mor Chikin!” Never mind the spelling, the commercial is catchy as these protesting cows are creatively protesting the eating of beef. Trying to save their hide, huh? But good food and creativity aside, Chick-Fil-A has something else that should stir up some interest. Especially as Christians: we should take note. It’s found in the way they train their workers. In the course of the training, employees are challenged to think of the customers differently. Chick-Fil-A uses a very stirring video that focuses on the individual customer as being important. Each customer has a story. You see, each customer has something going on in his life and that “something” can be heartache, confusion, rejection, loss, etc. And Chick-Fil-A wants the employee to do much more than serve chicken sandwiches, soft drinks, killer milk shakes, fries, and to be skilled at putting money in a till. Chick-Fil-A wants every employee to view each customer as the highest priority with a very important story. Chick-Fil-A wants the employee to think differently about people and to realize that as they serve, they can be a blessing to someone who might just be in the middle of a very hard time in life. The truth is: Chick-Fil-A gets it. Do we?

Next time you are in a crowd of people stop and take a minute to look around you. Have you ever thought about what is going on in the person’s life sitting next to you, behind you, in front of you? How about that person you walk by in the hallway at work or school, perhaps even as you greet them as you pass by--what is their story? Maybe the waitress who takes your order, or the mechanic who services your car---what is their story? Have you ever taken the time to listen? It’s really a very simple thing to do. But do we take the time and do this?

One of the exciting aspects of a Biblical Counseling Ministry is that, when done rightly, God’s people have a chance to mimic God and listen, to hear another person’s story, and to introduce God’s solution to life’s problems. Biblical Counseling Ministry, when done rightly, is a ministry loaded with joy as God’s people simply do what God created and saved them to do.

Well, welcome to the first edition of our Biblical Counseling Ministry’s “Community of Grace” newsletter. This monthly newsletter is designed to serve as one of many ways we hope to communicate to you about our counseling ministry. We are thrilled at the opportunities that lie ahead for us as we grow together, serve together, and reach our community with God’s All-Sufficient truth. We have a lot of work to do and with God’s grace we will be faithful to have a profound impact on the Bozeman area. In this monthly newsletter we will be featuring a variety of writings where the author will address particular counseling issues. We will also feature resources that are available to you from either our church’s resource Center or church library. Monthly we’ll have a section that will speak to a necessary quality of a biblical counselor and to the theological foundation of biblical counseling. And monthly we will include testimonials from counselors and perhaps, even someone who has received counsel and has seen God’s Word transform their life.



...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.

Biblical Counseling Ministry, when done rightly, is a ministry loaded with joy as God’s people simply do what God created and saved them to do.

EVERYONE A COUNSELOR...

By Pastor Blake Shaw

I realize that many professing Christians may scoff at the title of this article. But it is true. You do counsel. In fact, every time you open your mouth, you are counseling something. You communicate morals, values, and ethics by what you say and/or how you say it. So it isn't so much whether you counsel or not. The real issue is this: What kind of counsel do you give?

Most professing Christians simply believe that counseling is best left to the specialists of the day. But God's Word doesn't let the true believer off the hook. In other words, to be an obedient Christian means you can't become a referral system. And the question has to be, "Why would you want to be a referral system?" Scripturally you are commanded to counsel. Sadly, what comes into most believer's minds when they hear the word "counseling" is this picture of a specialist with a bunch of letters after his/her name, sitting behind a desk, and the person seeking counseling comes in and pays \$120 per half hour to listen and talk with the counselor. But is that what we have in mind when we speak of Christians counseling Christians, of believers functioning in a church body the way God designed the church to function? There is no way to get around it: Christians are supposed to counsel. More specifically you are commanded to practice nouthetic counseling. But before you get bent out of shape over the phrase, "nouthetic counseling" let me explain the concept.

The word "nouthetic" comes from the Greek word, "nouthesia" or "noutheteo" as used by authors of the New Testament. Literally the word means, "to put into the mind." It is translated a variety of ways, but the normal way it is translated is, "warn, admonish, or instruct." In Acts 20:31, we see that Paul practiced "nouthesia" where he says that for three years, night and day, from house to house he admonished (nouthton) the people in Ephesus with tears. Don't miss several critical points. Paul's practice of nouthetic ministry was continuous, any time of the day, in a personal way, house to house, and it was done with great compassion and concern as we see he did this with tears. Paul's admonishment of these beloved people was not a cold, sterile, in-your-face, type of admonishment. He admonished with tears. My beloved friends, when was the last time that you cared enough about other believers around you that you actually had tears as you sat with them to warn, teach, and admonish them?

When writing to the church at Rome, Paul, though never having met most, if not all of the saints in Rome, said to them that he is confident that they have everything they need to be able to admonish/warn/instruct one another (see Romans 15:14).

But Paul doesn't just set an example and encourage some believers that they can do this, he also shows us that nouthetic ministry is commanded. In Colossians 3:16 we are told to "Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, teaching and admonish one another..." The word "admonish" is the word noutheteo. Perhaps part of the problem is that we as Christians are guilty of disobedience to the first part of that command. Perhaps we don't have the word of Christ dwelling in us richly so we have nothing to compel us to have the compassion and love for other believers to such a degree that we would warn, admonish, or instruct them. Paul also tells believers in I Thessalonians 5:14 that we are to admonish the unruly. The word unruly is a word that was used in military settings to speak of a soldier who was out of line or the idea of "to step out of rank, to behave in a disorderly, insubordinate manner." This word refers to one who is open and actively rebellious or one who is idle or apathetic. You ever been there? Sure you have. And so have I. The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul tells us to admonish such a person.

This ministry is not optional my friends. It's commanded and it really is suppose to be a normal part of the functioning Christian life. You say, "But I feel so inadequate to counsel people with really complicated situations." First, let me say that I realize that there are some tough situations out there. People's lives can be really complicated. I also know full-well the feelings of inadequacy. Feeling inadequate is actually really good. It leaves you utterly dependent upon Christ.

The believer who wants to obey Jesus and have the nouthetic mind-set is not one who walks the hallways of the church, like a police officer, looking for opportunities to admonish someone. The believer with the nouthetic mind-set is one who has an infectious love for Jesus Christ and as a result of that love, has a love for others. And as life unfolds before that believer, Jesus provides opportunities for him to carefully be doing the nouthetic work with great love and compassion.

Are you with me? We have so much work to do. By God's grace we'll do what He wants us to do in the days ahead.

Q: Is there really any difference between biblical counseling and Christian psychology?

A: While at an initial glance, one might think that a biblical counselor and a psychologist, psychotherapist, etc., who is a Christian are really doing the same thing. Consider this: They both talk with people; they both care about people; they both get to know people; they both are interested in motivations, thoughts, emotions and behavior; they both investigate various pressures in the person's situation; they both give feedback; possibly, they both talk about God, Jesus or even a passage of Scripture. So what is the difference? This month, let me mention one of several differences. Difference One is: The belief about the Bible and the Bible's contribution to counseling. Many Christian psychologists would nod the head and say that they believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God. Many of them would view the Bible as an inspirational source, but when it comes to basic elements of their counseling system, whether we are talking about theory or methods, they turn to secular psychology. Many of them are what we call, "eclectic" in that they pick and choose theories and techniques according to their personal preference. In contrast, the true biblical counselor follows the Bible as the source of a comprehensive and detailed approach to understanding and counseling people. (see 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 2 Peter 1:4; Psalm 19:7-11). Even in cases where a psychologist or psychotherapist may use Scripture, often the particular verses are used out of context or are twisted to make them say something that they were never intended to say. As Biblical Counselors, we realize, no one, other than Jesus is perfect, but we want to demand of ourselves that we be committed to letting God speak for Himself through His Word, and to handle His Word rightly and with integrity.

Romans 15:14

And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

Galatians 6:1
Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

TRAINING COURSES OFFERED

COUNSELING OBSERVATION

In this course, the students will observe videos of a variety of counseling situations and will discuss the content of these video-taped sessions. Also in this class the students will talk about various case studies and how God's Word applies to each. This class is being offered on Sundays at 10:45am in Room 801, and on Wednesday nights 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the Fireside Room.

INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL COUNSELING

In this introduction course, the student will have the opportunity to be exposed to the foundational principles of the Biblical Counseling philosophy and introduced to the basics of how to counsel Biblically. This class is offered on Sunday mornings, 10:45am to 11:50am, in the Fireside Room.

