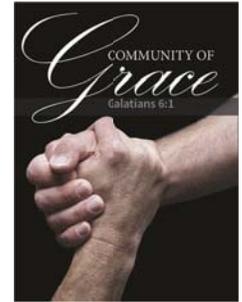


Grace Bible Church
2016 Biblical Counseling Conference
Track Two



Session #11

Leading People to the Goodness of God

8 Steps to Leading Your Counselees to the Goodness of God

I. Take _____ Gathering Data and Walking Through Their PDIs

Don't get in a hurry! Allow 2 maybe even 3 sessions to get through the PDIs.

- You can invest extra time now up _____ or end up stopping and doing it later.
- If you listen well and _____ with them initially, the process will go much better.

They are typically...

- Overwhelmed – tried everything
- Embarrassed or ashamed
- feel isolated from the church community
- Very hopeless
- Don't need 'Pat answers'

II. Do Whatever it Takes to Get Your Own _____ as Right as Possible!

Romans 5:5 “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Philippians 1:9-11 “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Our love is supposed to abound still more and more, EVEN in the face of a some of the most disgusting and distasteful circumstances. That's when it really matters! But that's also when you sometimes find out that your love is so pitiful, and conditional, and reciprocal!

We love people that love us, and we love the counselees that are doing what we want them to do, coming with all their homework done to a 'T' – able to quote their Bible memory verse flawlessly.

“In my numbness I wondered what I should be learning from God. I knew that I could not reject Barbara, and the temptation to do so faded pretty quickly. But what *was* I supposed to do now? ... one idea did occur to me, an idea that forced me into some healthy self-examination. It was simply this: Did I love Barbara as she really was - or did I only love my idea of Barbara? I knew from my own counseling that family members often don't love each other for who they really are. They love the ideal they have created of the other person. Love from God, I knew, is tougher and clearer-eyed. It loves people as they really are. God's love can be honest about people while holding on to them until that love changes them... There's more to love than we think. The implications of our Lord dying for us 'while we were yet sinners' are staggering. Perhaps the great need of the church today is to face how badly we love and then to enter more fully into the costly grace of our forgiving Lord.” *Come Back, Barbara*, C. John Miller & Barbara Miller Julian, pg. 38-39, pg. 11

Perhaps the greatest need of the biblical counseling movement today is to face how _____ we love sometimes, and to enter into the _____ grace of our forgiving Lord!

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

III. Re-Think the Way You See _____ in the Whole Counseling Process

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.”

“If we listen well we gain passport into their world, and if we listen well we can get one foot in and have the ability to pivot on one foot from their crisis to the cross.” Garrett Higbee

I Thessalonians 2:7-9 “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.”

What is the most accurate picture you get from Scripture?

- Coach?
- Personal Trainer?
- Detective?
- _____ leading people to the banquet of God!

And when you have that mind-set you start asking God to use you to make Psalm 36 a reality in your counselees' lives...

Psalm 36:7-9 “How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.”

Maitre d' captures well the Bible's concept of a biblical counselor and fills in some of the gaps that personal trainer and coach leave us with.

Psalm 34:8 “Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him.”

IV. Bring them Back to their _____

Bring them back to their Savior, and do that by letting the Bible speak for itself. Don't get lost in all the biblical counseling booklets and worksheets. Don't jump right in with giving them a book or booklet about addiction. Check yourself by asking...

- Am I talking about Christ as much as I am sin?

- Do I effectively weave the redemptive work of Christ on the cross into our sessions - calling my counselee to celebrate Christ's power and freedom over sin?
- Are my homework assignments giving my counselee enough opportunities to 'taste and see that He is good'? (Psalm 34:8)
- Am I making the person and glory of Christ attractive by my words and attitude – leading a broken sinner to the Savior – or do our sessions feel more like a business transaction... sticking biblical principle 'band-aids' onto sin spots?
- Is my own life right now reflecting the celebratory worship of a Christ-follower or do I just come across as the Bible 'Answer Man'?

We need to give our counselees more of who God is for us in His Son Jesus Christ... and not just biblical principles lifted from the pages of Scripture. Don't just give them the principles; give them the living Savior behind those principles!

Ephesians 2:2-7 "... once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom we also once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, in order that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life."

V. Use God's Word as Much as Possible!

"God's Word and the work of the cross is so attractive until we get in the middle." Garrett Higbee

Help them close the gap on what they know vs. what they actually believe and experience personally.

VI. Emphasize Adoration as Well as Accountability

"Though we can often point to a lack of amputation or a failure to remain accountable to someone locally or lack of time in the Word as the problem the truth is... Radical Accountability, Amputation and Appropriation are in and of themselves of little lasting value without... `Radical Adoration'.

People can read the Bible, repent and be sorrowful for their sins and sever the areas of access to that which trips them up. We could find a local accountability partner but we cannot rely on our accountability partners because sooner or later those relationships drift away or we will be unable to get a hold of them in a moment of need. We cannot always rely on our filter because we will inevitably get a new computer that will not come with a filter preinstalled or be somewhere that porn is available for viewing or purchase. We cannot only shop in stores where unattractive people dressed in burlap bags shop, and to my knowledge there are no college campuses, beaches or streets in cities that require full length summer apparel that show no skin. Without falling in love with Jesus Christ and seeking to serve Him daily with all their heart, mind, soul and strength it is only a matter of time before our resolve to stay away from the old idols begins to weaken and down we will go." Shon Bruellman, The Executive Director of Setting Captives Free

2 Corinthians 11:3 “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

VII. Re-emphasize Basic Doctrinal Truths

Adoption –

Romans 8:14-17 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”

Galatians 4:4-7 “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive (a certificate of eternal debt! No...) the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

The central message of the NT is not a debtor’s ethic but grace!

Grace –

A lot of our counselees have gotten sucked into the ‘Avis Spirituality’ mindset and it’s killing them – ‘We try harder!’

“For many Christians, the Avis approach to business success becomes the fundamental approach to spiritual success—just try harder. After initially receiving Christ, we begin living our lives with an ever-growing list of the things that please God coupled with an inner drive to try hard to do those things.

This describes my early years as a Christian: earnest, devout, disciplined. I remember my routine as a college student involved fasting once a week, having daily devotional times, and regularly memorizing large portions of Scripture—none of which is bad in and of itself. For me, however, I was too spiritually busy to recognize how dry my soul was becoming. My relationship with God was wooden and mechanical as I earnestly focused on one objective: trying very hard to please God by doing the things Christians are supposed to do.

This approach can look quite spiritual to those around us; however, it’s often rooted in a soul deficiency, a deeply held inner conviction that our worth as Christians is dependent upon our ability to perform and succeed. Behind this spiritual facade is a heart desperately attempting to get God to love us more by doing the “shoulds.” Ultimately, our obedience is rooted in guilt and fear, not freedom. Can you relate to this? Does your spiritual life boil down to how you can do a better job pleasing God? If so, I’d like you to consider the possibility that the spiritual path you are on may not result in the kind of real transformation you long for.” *Good news for Those Trying Harder*, Alan Kraft, p. 23-24

1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

Gospel –

Colossians 1:21-23 “And you who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and irreproachable in His sight – if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the Gospel which you heard...”

Galatians 3:3 "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?"

Galatians 3:1 The Message says "You crazy Galatians! Did someone put a hex on you? Have you taken leave of your senses? Something crazy has happened, for it's obvious that you no longer have the crucified Jesus in clear focus in your lives..."

Use the Gospel Primer by Milton Vincent

Use Good News for Those Trying Harder by Alan Kraft

Use the Cross-Centered Life by C.J. Mahaney

VIII. Be Honest about Your Own Walk with the Lord

You can't take your counselees where you've never been yourself... or where you rarely stay!

- How much do you sit at Jesus' feet vs. running around doing ministry?
- Is your personal time with the Lord more like a business transaction than a banquet table?

