

the purpose of discipleship



What discipleship & biblical counseling is _____

1. It is not an autonomous ministry.
2. It is not an activity reserved for the experts.
3. It is not an optional ministry. (Acts 20:31; Rom 15:14; Col 1:28)
4. It is not an activity that is insensitive or uncaring.
5. It is not a canned methodology, but is a life-on-life activity.
6. It is not merely giving biblical principles to apply, but is focused on a person to follow.

What discipleship & biblical counseling _____

1. It entwines every ministry of the church.
2. It discerns desires, thinking, and behavior that God wants to change.
3. It uses God's Word, by the Holy Spirit, to change desires, thinking, and behavior.
4. It seeks the sanctification of the Christian (into Christ-likeness) for the glory of God.
 - We are to warn and instruct one another. (Rom 15:14; Col 1:28, 3:16)
 - We are to mend and restore one another. (Gal 6:1; Heb 13:21)
 - We are to carry and bear one another's burdens. (Gal 6:2)

We all _____ biblical counseling

1. The need began when God created man.
 - He needed God's counsel in order to know what to do and not to do. (Gen 1:28-30; 2:16-17, 19)
 - Man was made to be dependent on God's counsel. (Matt 4:4)
2. The need continued when wrong choices were made in the Garden of Eden. (Gen 3)
 - Man was created in the image of God. (Gen 1:26)
 - God clearly communicated the only limitations on man's behavior and the penalty for disobedience. (Gen 2:16-17)

- Satan sought to overthrow God's counsel by:
 - Creating doubt about God's Word (Gen 3:1)
 - Denying God's Word (Gen 3:4)
 - Denouncing God's character (Gen 3:5)
- Eve listened to ungodly counsel and was deceived to sin. (Gen 3:1; 2 Cor 11:3)
- Adam ate the forbidden fruit knowingly. (Gen 3:6; 1 Tim 2:14)
- Their sin was more than merely eating forbidden fruit. It was:
 - Disobeying the revealed Word of God.
 - Believing the lie of Satan.
 - Placing their desires above God's command.
- Sin brings consequences:
 - Knowledge of good and evil (Gen 3:7a, 10-11, 22)
 - Guilt & shame (Gen 3:7b, 8, 10-11)
 - Broken fellowship with God (Gen 3:8-13a)
 - Fear (Gen 3:10)
 - Pain in childbirth (Gen 3:16a)
 - Distorted marital relationships (Gen 3:16b)
 - Exhausting labor in order to make a living (Gen 3:17-19)
 - Physical death (Gen 3:19, 22-24)
 - Spiritual death, eternal separation from God (Rom 5:12, 6:23)

3. The cumulative result (2 Tim 3):

- Rampant iniquity (vv. 2-4)
- Rampant hypocrisy (vv. 5-7)
- Rampant apostasy (vv. 8-9)
- Rampant persecution (vv. 12-13)

4. The Apostle Paul had an answer to these problems. (2 Tim 3:15-4:2)

- God gave us His inspired and inerrant Word.
- God's Word is profitable. It answers four key questions:
 - How should I think and act?
 - How do I know when I am wrong?
 - How do I change?
 - How do I keep from repeating the same mistakes over and over again?
- Change is God's and the church's business! His method is justification and progressive sanctification.
- The Word adequately equips us to help people who are reaping the pain of sin!

The _____ of discipleship & biblical counseling

1. True biblical counseling will have the clearly defined and communicated goal of helping a person become God's kind of a person. (Col 1:28)
2. The circumstances of a person's life will be used as a springboard to teach them how to think and act in a way that would please the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor 5:9; Gal 1:10)
3. Becoming God's kind of person is an on-going process of putting off wrong thinking and behavior and replacing them with biblical thinking and acting.
4. This will happen as the individual's mind is renewed by salvation and progressive sanctification. (Rom 12:1-2; Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:1-17)
5. Solving the problems that motivate people to seek help will be secondary to the goal of helping them to please Christ, whether their circumstances change or not. (Rom 8:28-29)

_____ of a discipler & biblical counselor

1. A discipler & biblical counselor should be:
 - A spiritual person (Gal 6:1)
 - Indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9)
 - Obedient to the Spirit (Eph 5:18; Gal 5:22-23)
 - Concerned about sin's impact on himself and on other people (Gal 6:7-8)

- A gentle person when seeking to restore someone to usefulness in the body of Christ (Gal 6:1; cf. Matt 11:29, Gal 5:23, Eph 4:1-3, 1 Thess 2:7, 1 Tim 6:11, 2 Tim 2:25, Titus 3:2, Heb 5:1-2, James 3:17, 1 Pet 3:4, 15)
 - A humble person who is aware of his own struggles (Gal 6:1)
 - A responsible person who carries her own burdens in life (Gal 6:4-5)
 - A caring person who is willing to help others carry a load that is too heavy for them to carry alone (Gal 6:2)
2. A discipler & biblical counselor should be committed to:
- The inerrancy of Scripture (2 Pet 1:20-21; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - The gospel of Jesus Christ (Matt 11:28-29; 1 Cor 15:3-4)
 - The sufficiency of Christ and Scripture (2 Pet 1:3; 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - Biblical change (1 Cor 6:9-11; Eph 4:22-24; Ps 51:10)
 - The obedience of Scripture (1 John 2:6; Luke 9:23-24; Matt 7:24-27)
 - The church (Matt 16:18; 18:15-17; Act 20:28; 1 Tim 3:15)
 - Love (1 Cor 13:1-7, 13; Col 3:14; 1 Thess 1:3)
3. A biblical counselor should be committed to being like Robert Murray McCheyne, who was known as one who had ***faithfulness to the Word and tenderness for the souls of men.***