

# DOCTRINAL FOUNDATIONS FOR BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Who can give Biblical guidance?

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# Review

- ▣ Truth Compels Us
  - Scripture is the only source of certain, life-giving, God-given truth.
  - Man was made to glorify God.
  - Man has rejected God's purposes and is dead in sin.
  - Salvation gives us new life and sets us on a path of growing Christlikeness.
  - The Holy Spirit produces fruit in us through the Word and the sharpening ministry of other believers.

# Who is a Christian?

- ▣ A Christian is a person rescued from judgment and being gradually rescued from sin (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- ▣ A Christian is being guided by God's Spirit (Romans 8:14) and God's Word (Psalm 119:105).
- ▣ A Christian knows God and receives comfort from Him (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- ▣ A Christian has undeniable, irrevocable hope that triumphs over suffering and produces a perfect salvation (1 Peter 1:3-9).

# How Should Christians Relate?

- ▣ Love (John 13:34-35)
- ▣ Pursue peace and edification (Romans 14:19)
- ▣ Have Christ's mind together (Romans 15:5)
- ▣ Admonish (Romans 15:14)
- ▣ Share in worship (1 Corinthians 11:33)
- ▣ Serve (Galatians 5:13)
- ▣ Bear burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- ▣ Speak truth (Ephesians 4:25)
- ▣ Forgive (Ephesians 4:32)
- ▣ Speak in song (Ephesians 5:19)
- ▣ Bear with (Colossians 3:13)
- ▣ Let Christ's Word richly dwell, teach, admonish (Colossians 3:16)
- ▣ Encourage and edify (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- ▣ Seek good (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- ▣ Promote a tender conscience (Hebrews 3:13)
- ▣ Stimulate to good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)
- ▣ Assemble and encourage in hope (Hebrews 10:25)
- ▣ Confess sins (James 5:16)
- ▣ Show hospitality (1 Peter 4:9)
- ▣ Use spiritual gifts (1 Peter 4:10)

# What Tools Does Each Christian Have?

- ▣ God's Word, guaranteed to be useful – 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ▣ The Holy Spirit equips us for service – 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, cf. Ephesians 4:11-16
- ▣ Goodness in a new heart – Romans 15:14
- ▣ Promises from God – 2 Peter 1:4, e.g. James 1:5
- ▣ Believers to give wisdom – Proverbs 11:14

# Conclusion

Believers have a sufficient equipping to fulfill the “one anothers” of Scripture, including the edification and admonition.

Put Another Way:

Believers are often God’s means of sanctification.

# Caution!!!

- ▣ Matthew 7:1-5 – We will discover our own sin as we study God’s Word. Our personal response to God’s Word (repentance and faith) is our first response of worship.
- ▣ James 3:1-8 – Teachers (those giving instruction from God’s Word) will incur a stricter judgment.
- ▣ Philippians 2:1-8 – Christ had a sympathetic, lowly approach toward serving others. His example demands that we divest ourselves of any other mode of help.

# Caution!!!

- ▣ Matthew 23:4, Galatians 6:2 – Many people can talk and give advice. We follow Christ's example, not only by talking, but also bearing burdens.
- ▣ Matthew 23:5-12, Galatians 6:3-5 – Giving “Thus says the Lord” instruction is not to honor the middle-man, but to honor the Lord.
- ▣ 2 Corinthians 3:1-6 – Our wisdom and experience do not make us useful. Our oratorical skill or logical supremacy do not ensure change. God produces change in others by His resources (v 18).

# Your Questions

