

## The Church and the Biblical Counseling Movement

Leadership Class – May 11, 2024

[TruthCommunityChurch.org](http://TruthCommunityChurch.org)

Broad recap of our study:

- Addressing the source of secular psychological thinking and so-called mental health diagnoses.
- Addressing the broader evangelical fascination with integrating psychology and a form of Christianity.
- Addressing the growth and influence of the Biblical Counseling movement.

Dangers of the Biblical Counseling Movement:

- The biblical counseling movement creates an extra-biblical category of ministry worker.
- The biblical counseling model stratifies spiritual problems and assumes that some issues need to be outsourced to a certified “biblical counselor” instead of handled within the body under the direction of the elders.
- The biblical counseling movement separates credentialing from church membership and the instruction for Spirit-filled believers to help each other.
- The biblical counseling movement dilutes the priority of the pulpit and feeds a consumer mindset by providing an additional service to address “felt” needs.
- The biblical counseling movement can create unrealistic expectations about sanctification.
- Biblical counseling, as defined by the requirement of credentialed experts to solve certain spiritual problems, is a form of Gnosticism (needing a special knowledge).
- Biblical counseling intimidates believers in the body of Christ from engaging with one another over serious spiritual matters. (cf. Galatians 5:22-6:2)

“You and the Biblical Counseling Movement”

- Your personal response to the biblical counseling movement begins with being willing to receive rebuke and exhortation.
- Your personal response to the biblical counseling movement includes preparing to engage with the body of Christ.
- Your personal response to the biblical counseling movement means accepting providential appointments to invest in others.
- Your personal response to the biblical counseling movement means living a Spirit-filled life.

## “The Church and the Biblical Counseling Movement”

Scripture assumes that ‘counseling’ occurs within the biblically defined ecclesiastical structure.

Scripture assumes that ‘counseling’ takes place in a local congregation led by qualified elders.

### **The role of elders**

1. Elders oversee the entire church.
2. Elders teach doctrine.
3. Elders exemplify Christian living.

### **The importance of church membership**

1. Scripture assumes identification with and commitment to a local church.
2. Church membership gives the assurance of care.
3. Church membership gives the assurance of accountability.
4. Church membership assumes the responsibility to engage.

### **Practical points for engaging the body**

1. Look up the “one another” passages in the N.T.
2. Examine yourself before addressing a concern.
3. Engagement is not a license to criticize.
4. Chapter and verse are not always necessary. A word of concern is appropriate.
5. Be willing to revisit missed opportunities.
6. Be receptive when you are on the receiving end of admonishment or rebuke.
7. Refuse to gossip about the weaknesses of others. Talk to them in person.
8. In general, women speak to women and men to men.
9. When you have questions, ask the elders.