

BIBLICAL COUNSELING IN A BICULTURAL OR MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY: CRISIS COUNSELING

Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16-17; Ps. 19:7-11; 2 Tim. 3:1-17

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Introduction

Q: What is the difference between a Hispanic / Latino person and an Anglo one?

A: There are some cultural differences but in the end we are all human beings and we all are created equal. We all are equally born sinners and we need the same Savior for our sinful condition.

We don't need a Savior for the Hispanics, and one for the Chinese and another one for the Anglo and so forth. Christ died for the sins of the whole world.

It is important to understand some aspects of the culture we are trying to minister to. Some examples.

Some Hispanics and their views of:

- Marriage.
- Starting the church services on time, etc.

Some Anglos and their views of:

- Coldness in Fellowship.
- Immigrations issues.

The apostle Paul's view of ministry will help us have the proper views, as we look to minister in a multicultural context of ministry:

- **1 Cor. 9:19-23-** “For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.”

Three essential things that we must keep in mind to effectively practice biblical counsel in a bicultural or multicultural ministry as we deal with different crisis.

Effective biblical counseling in any crisis has three elements:

- 1) **The Gospel of Christ**
- 2) **The Biblical Command to _____ the _____ Believer**
- 3) **The instructing of believers in the _____ of God's Word to deal with any crisis in life.**

¹ By His Grace NHC0 Conference 3.10.2018

I. SHARING THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

A. The gospel is God's _____ to the _____ in the world.

1. To give life to a spiritually _____ person.
 - Every person is born spiritually dead:
 - **Ps. 51:5**- “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”
 - **Eph. 2:1**- “And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”
 - A spiritually dead person cannot change.
 - **1 John 3:8-10**- “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”
 - The gospel of Christ gives spiritual life to a spiritually dead person.
 - **John 5:24**- “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
 - **1 Peter 1:23**- “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
2. To powerfully _____ a life in crisis.
 - This is why the apostle Paul was not ashamed of the gospel:
 - **Rom. 1:16**- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - **Power**, “*dunamiv*,” the miraculous power to transform a life, from a sinner to a saint.
 - Only a born again person can powerfully be transform by biblical counsel.
 - From a life of crisis to a life of peace: **Matth. 11:28-30**- “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in

heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.”

- From being a slave of sin to a being a slave of righteousness: **Rom. 6:16-18-** “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”

B. The proclamation of the _____ must be a ____of life in our churches.

1. This is Christ’s _____ to every church: “*Go ye therefore ...*
 - ***Go ye therefore***, “*poreuyentev*”, aorist tense, pres. participle, which can be translated “going” or “as you go,” thus emphasizing a style of living. As we go on our daily living.
 - It is not just a designated day to go out and evangelize our community but as we go about our daily life, evangelizing needs to be our style of living.
 - **Wayne A. Mack and Dave Swavely**, have stated, “A truly biblical church . . . will repeatedly emphasize the necessity of evangelism and regularly equip its members to do it.”²
2. To take the gospel to all _____ groups: *... and teach all nations ...*
 - **Teach**, “*mayhteusate*,” means to instruct a person with the purpose to make him or her a disciple, It not only means to learn but to “become attached to one’s teacher and to become his follower in doctrine and conduct.”³ It is not just a quick prayerism.
 - **All nations**, “*panta ta eynh*” All nations. All ethnic groups. The ethnic groups have come to us. We must reach them through our multicultural or bicultural ministries.

² Wayne A. Mack and Dave Swavely. *Life in the Father’s House. A Member’s Guide to the Local Church*. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006), p. 157

³ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study New Testament*. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishing, 1991), p. 933

II. THE BIBLICAL COMMAND TO DISCIPLE A NEW BELIEVER.

A. This is Christ's command to His _____.

1. _____ *them* ... This verb is in the imperative mood, Hence, the command is: 'you disciple.'
2. "... *to observe all things whatsoever I have _____ you.*"
 - To teach them to live according to the Word of God. The meaning of the word "*tereo*," is to carefully attend and observe the commands and ordinances of the Word of God.⁴
 - To teach new believers to think biblically and what their new identity is now in Christ.

B. The Apostle Paul _____ Vital Aspects of _____.

1. Its product: _____ (2Cor 3:18, Gal 4:19, Rom. 8:29)
2. Its process: One _____ at a time (Col 1:28, Acts 20:31)
3. Its power: _____ (Col 1:29, 2Cor 3:18)
4. Its passion: God's _____ and Christ's Bema (1Cor 3:10-15, Col 1:28, 1Thess 2:19-20, Heb 13:17)
5. What then is _____?
 - Discipleship is nothing more and nothing less than moving another believer toward Christlikeness. Hence, Christlike discipleship and biblical counseling are synonymous. Biblical counseling is taking a believer from where they are and moving them toward Christ's resources and likeness (2Pet 3:18).⁵

C. The _____ of Biblical Counseling:

- The Bible teaches us a timeless, effective and efficient counseling model: Romans 6-8 offers the clear model of change and growth. Paul offers the same model slimmed down in Colossians 3. But Ephesians 4:22-24 brings this same model down into three concise verses. This is our key text that clearly identifies the three phases of biblical change.⁶
1. _____: **Eph. 4:22-** "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study New Testament*. p. 961

⁵ Dr. Jim Newcomer, Notes on the Lecture: *Theology of the Heart, Ministry Counseling*, (Northland International University Graduate Studies)

⁶ Ibid, Notes on the Lecture: *Theology of the Heart, Ministry Counseling*

- This is identifying an “old man” trait, taking full responsibility for it before God and forsaking it.
 - Biblical references: Prov. 28:13, Is. 1:16, Rom. 6:11-12, Col. 3:8-9, 1 Jn. 1:9
2. _____: **Eph. 4:23-** “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;”
- This is a conscious effort to have God’s perspective on life and on the specific area needing change and growth.
 - It is internalizing God’s mind (e.g., reading, memorizing and meditating on God’s Word). This is Biblical thinking.
 - Biblical references: Ps. 119:11, Prov. 22:17-18, Rom. 12:2, Col., 3:16
3. _____: **Eph. 4:24-** “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”
- This is a conscious effort to replace unbiblical behavior with Christlike behavior. The direction is given by a renewed mind. It is hard work, energized by God’s Spirit and grace.
 - This is the fruit of the Spirit in the life of a believer yielded to Him.
 - Biblical references: Is. 1:17, Phil. 2:12-13, Col. 3:10-17, 1 Tim. 4:7-10, 2 Tim. 2:22

Effective Biblical Counseling Instructs the believer in

III. THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD’S WORD TO DEAL WITH ANY CRISIS.

A. God’s Word is perfectly _____ because _____ is our perfect and sufficient Savior.

1. Christ is our wonderful _____.
- **Is. 9:6-** “ ... *his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor ...* ”
 - **Wonderful:** “**alp** pele’, it could be translated, “exceptional” or “distinguished” **Counselor:** Jesus is our counselor par excellence, whose plans, purposes, designs and decrees for his people are marvelous.⁷
 - **Ps. 16:7-** “I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel ... ”

⁷ Gilchrist, P. R. (1999). 887 רָצָה. R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 391). Chicago: Moody Press.

2. Christ's _____ Word is the Rock upon which we can wisely build our lives.

- **Matth. 7:24-** “ ... whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:”

B. God's Word is perfectly _____ to meet our every _____.

- The Bible says that God has given us – in our union with Christ and in His Word – everything that is necessary to live our lives and to grow in Christlikeness. **2 Peter 1:3-** “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:” This verse clearly says that the Bible contains all the principles and practical insights that are necessary for understanding people and their problems. There are a number of biblical passages that teach this truth, but for brevity of time I will only highlight Psalm 19:7-11. This Psalm unmistakably demonstrates the Bible's sufficiency and superiority for counseling over any man's theories. Consider carefully what this passage declares about what Scripture is and what it can do, and then think of the counseling implications of these assertions.⁸

- **According to Ps. 19:7-11, God's Word . . .**

1. *Is* _____, converting the _____:

- **Perfect**, “**Mymt** tamiym” meaning, whole, complete, sufficient, lacking nothing. Therefore is able to convert:
- **Converting**, “**bwv** shuwv” restoring, transforming” the *soul*, “**vpn**” nephesh, the inner being of a man, the whole person, the real you.
 - This is what Paul says in the NT is the power “**dunamiv**” of God. God's Word is powerful and comprehensive that can transform a despicable sinner into a saint by progressive sanctification “*to be conformed to the image of his son*” (Rom. 8:29b).

2. *Is* _____, making wise the simple.

- **Sure**, “**Nma** 'aman” God's Word is unwavering, immovable, unmistakably reliable, and worthy to be trusted. Therefore is able to:
- **Making wise** “**Mkx**” chakam”” gives the ability to act wisely to **the simple**, “**ytp**” pethiy ” the person who is undiscerning, ignorant, gullible. Who lacks intelligence or common sense.
 - Many a times we all are simple when confronting the circumstances of life. We don't have control over the circumstances of life but we do have control over our thinking. God's counsel gives us the grace to

⁸ Wayne Mack. Article: *The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling*, Master Seminary Journal, Vol. TMSJ 09:1 (Spring 1988), p. 77

forsake our simple way and be wise by responding biblically to our circumstances in life.

3. [Is] _____, rejoicing the heart ...
- **Right**, “**rvy** yashar,” correct, in accord with what is just and good, appropriate and fitting and thus, is able of:
 - **Rejoicing**, “**xms** samach” to cause to rejoice, (in this context to experience a sense of well being, serenity, tranquility, and peace, such peace and joy as David experience in **Ps. 32:11**- “Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all *ye that are* upright in heart.”
 - **The heart**, “**bl** leb” the inner man, the totality of the inner non-physical self. The real you.
 - God’s word sets us on the right course in life and thus produces real joy in the lives of those who are depressed, anxious, fearful or are full of doubts, learning to obey God’s counsel will result in great joy.
4. Is _____, enlightening the eyes.
- **Pure**, “**rb** bar” pure, untainted with evil or error, Scripture is not mystifying or confusing, it gives mandates that are always clear. And thus:
 - **Enlightening the eyes**. “**rwa** 'owr” to be illuminated, giving spiritual insight, is able to bring light into man's chaos and confusion, to replace man's ignorance and lack of understanding with clear direction, perspective and insight.⁹
 - **MacArthur**, says: “Scripture because of its absolute clarity, brings understanding instead of ignorance, order in place of confusion, and light in place of spiritual and moral darkness.”¹⁰
5. Is _____, enduring for ever ...
- **Clean**, “**rwhj**” pure, clean (morally, ethically), and free from impurity or defilement, God's Word contains no error.
 - **Enduring for ever**, “**de** `ad” Scripture is eternally and unalterably perfect.
 - It is relevant for every generation and thus it is relevant for today’s society.
 - **Mark 13:31**- “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.”

⁹ Wayne Mack. Article: *The Sufficiency of Scripture in Counseling*, Master Seminary Journal, Vol. TMSJ 09:1 (Spring 1988), p. 78

¹⁰ John F. MacArthur, Jr. Article: *The Sufficiency of Scripture*, Master Seminary Journal, Vol. TMSJ 15:2 (Fall 2004), p. 171

6. [Is] _____, *and* righteous altogether.
- **True**, “**tma**” 'emeth" a true statement, what the Bible declares is true and implies that all teachings are dependable; the Bible is God's all - sufficient Word.
 - **Righteous altogether**, God's Word accurately reflects reality, it tells it like it is. God's Word teaches that which is right, good and holy, that which is truly just and fair, and thus leading men to understand and practice what is truly real and right.
 - **2 Tim. 3:16-17**- “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”
7. There is no greater _____ than to live by God's Word: *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold ...* (v 10a)
8. There is no greater _____ then the sweetness of God's Word: *sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb* (v 10b).
9. There is no greater and infallible _____ than the Word of God: *Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward* (v 11).

Closing observations

How can we then have effectiveness in counseling in any crisis in a bicultural or multicultural ministry?

We can effectively counsel in any crisis in a bicultural or multicultural ministry by keeping in mind that effective biblical counseling in any crisis consists of **three elements**:

- 1) The Gospel of Christ.
- 2) The Biblical Command to Disciple the New Believer
- 3) Instructing believers in the sufficiency of God's Word to deal with any crisis in life.

Setting a solid biblical foundation will help us to effectively counsel in any crisis that we may encounter in our ministries. As it is written in the counsel of the Word of God:

- **Prov. 13:14**- “The teaching of the wise is a fountain *and* source of life, So that one may avoid the snares of death.” (AMP)