



Biblical Soul Care in the Local Church

Biblical Counseling
and the Operations
of the Heart,
Part 1



Biblical Counseling and the Operations of the Heart

The feature that most significantly sets biblical counseling apart is how Scripture is brought to bear on the issues of the heart.

Biblical Counseling and the Operations of the Heart

How do I grow... change... become more like Christ?

- Day-to-day spiritual transformation from a desire to please God
- Desire, understanding, and change are functions of your heart/mind

What is your heart as God sees and defines it?

- The seat and center of who you are and where every motive, desire, and plan for what you say and do begins.



Biblical Counseling is most concerned with the matters of your heart because...

- Your heart is your control center for living and worshiping
- Matthew 6:19-21 - You are defined by what you worship



Biblical Counseling is most concerned with the matters of your heart because:

- Our desires define our actions.

Biblical Counseling is most concerned with the matters of your heart because:

- Romans 12:1-2 -- minds/hearts renewed by the Holy Spirit
- Proverbs 4:23 -- all issues of life flow from your heart

Is the heart the same as the mind?

Yes -- we think with our heart!



Is the heart the same as the mind?

- Genesis 6:5
- Deuteronomy. 8:2, 5, 11-14, 17-19
- Mark 2:6, 8
- Romans 1:21-22, 28
- Colossians 3:16; 3:1-4

Biblical counseling is fully committed to the sufficiency of God's Word for soul care because only God truly knows and weighs the issues of your heart. The Lord made you to live out of the worship of your heart.

- Proverbs 21:2

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7)

“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought...” (1 Chron. 28:9)

I, the Lord, search the heart; I test the mind to reward a man according to his way, by what his deeds deserve. (Jer. 17:10)

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God." (Luke 16:14-15)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. (Heb. 4:12-13)