

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | MAY 24, 2023

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Question 2

Describe the **sufficiency** of Scripture.

Relate the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture to the practice of biblical counseling.

Research and respond to the arguments of at least one integrationist or Christian psychologist regarding the insufficiency of Scripture for counseling.

Question 2

What do we mean by the **sufficiency of Scripture**?

The sufficiency of Scripture means that nothing stands above, alongside, or in place of the Bible as God's primary instrument in bringing sinners to **salvation** by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and in **spiritually growing** His people in Christlikeness.

Question 2

Sufficient for what, exactly?

Scripture **alone** speaks most authoritatively and sufficiently to:

1. Man's **sinful dilemma** and need for salvation from sins.
2. God's **provision** of salvation by grace through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Man's life being lived in **holiness** to the glory of God.

In fact, to suggest, suppose, or state any lack in Scripture's sufficiency as God's **primary means of saving and sanctifying sinners** refutes God's own testimony about the exclusive nature and power of His Word to spiritually transform a sinner's heart and mind (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Peter. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-14.)

Question 2

What does SOS have to do with biblical counseling, discipleship, and life?

Because God's Word contains **everything needed for living and loving to the glory of God**, the personal ministry of God's Word involves more than empathetic listening, more than compassionate caring, and even more than sorting out our problems.

Question 2

What does SOS have to do with biblical counseling, discipleship, and life?

1. The Word of God alone, applied to the heart by the work of the Spirit, effects lasting **change** as it **transforms** sinners in progressively greater degrees of likeness to **Jesus** (2 Cor. 3:18).
2. God transforms lives, makes people holy, and **renews** minds to think like **Jesus** as Christians speak His Word in love into each other's lives (1 Cor. 2:16; Rom. 12:1-2).
3. Biblical counseling addresses issues of overcoming the **deceitfulness** of sin to help a person become more like **Jesus** to the honor and glory of God (Heb. 3:13; 2 Cor. 11:3, 1 Cor. 10:31).

Question 2

Where does sin (wrong attitudes, intentions, actions) come from?

- Mark 7:19-23. How does this truth relate to the sufficiency of Scripture in biblical counseling?
- Scripture alone speaks to sin in the heart as the **root** producing bad **fruit**.
- Sin is a spiritual problem requiring a spiritual solution.

Question 2

What is the highest goal of living as a Christian?

To become more and more like Christ. We commonly refer to this **process** as **sanctification** (holiness, being set apart to God, walking by the Spirit, etc.).

- 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17; Rom. 8:28-29
- 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom 12:1-2 “The more believers grow in their knowledge of Christ, the more He is **revealed** in their lives.” (John MacArthur)

Question 2

How does man's wisdom, expressed through psychology and psychiatry, **undermine** the sufficiency of Scripture in an **integrated** model of soul care among God's people?

- 2 Cor. 4:3-4
- 1 Cor. 2:1-16. The unbelieving mind **cannot** understand the wisdom of God. God's wisdom must be owned and understood according to the ministry of the **Holy Spirit** at work in the believer.

Question 2

How does man's wisdom, expressed through psychology and psychiatry, **undermine** the sufficiency of Scripture in an **integrated** model of soul care among God's people?

- Rom. 8:5-8. The unbelieving mind of man is not **neutral** or **innocent**, nor does it seek for the truth. It is **hostile** to the truth.
- This **selfish hostility** to the truth produces the need for many of the modalities, methodologies, and conflicting opinions about diagnoses and treatments among secular theories for soul care.

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