

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

Grace Gatherings

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | FEBRUARY 21, 2024

GRACE CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG

Theology:

What we can **say/know** about God and His ways; the biblical study of God.

General Revelation:

What **all** people can know about God through creation and conscience.

Special Revelation:

God's revealing of Himself in **Scripture**, and especially in **Jesus Christ**.

Common Grace:

God's **undeserved goodness** shown to all people; restrains evil and provides.

Saving Grace:

The **undeserved favor** of God which brings about **faith and forgiveness** in Christ.

These biblical categories/doctrines help us understand important things about people and their lives:

1. “What you **think** about God is the most important thing about you.”
(A.W. Tozer)
2. Living is a **Godward task**; each person is either living for God or against Him (*Coram Deo* = in the presence of God; before the face of God).
3. Christian theology helps us know God and His ways. A biblical understanding of God helps us develop a **God-centered** (*theocentric*) view of life so that we can live to **please** and **reflect** God in all that we think, say, and do.

These biblical categories/doctrines help us understand some things about people and their lives:

4. Unbelievers are **not neutral** about God at any time in their lives but live in **active rebellion** against Him as they suppress the truth of His existence, authority, and power.
5. The opposite of a *theocentric* view of life is an **anthropocentric**, or man-centered, view of life. Sin turns us towards self and works mightily against God-centeredness. There is no middle way.
6. There is no **ambivalence** in unbelievers -- that is to say, no fluctuating or competing desires within them struggling to either love or hate God. You will have come across people who want to claim this: "*I can take Him or leave Him.*" There is no such position in **God's view** of unbelievers.

Anytime, and under any category or issue of life, where unbelievers weigh in with their observations, opinions, or interpretations, their **basis** is an anti-God worldview which **suppresses the truth** about God in unrighteousness and which **sinfully spins/distorts** their views.

Biblical Counseling is Being the Church



Biblical Counseling and the Public, Personal, and Private Ministries of the Word

While God has given the church pastors and teachers to shepherd the flock by preaching and teaching sound doctrine, what about the rest of us?

Biblical Counseling and the Public, Personal, and Private Ministries of the Word

How is each believer in every local church equipped by God to care for each other's souls?

- Romans 15:4, 13, 14
- Proverbs 18:13, 17; 20:5
- Galatians 6:1-2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Corinthians 10:13

Biblical Counseling and the Public, Personal, and Private Ministries of the Word

In the **real-life circumstances** described in these passages, biblical counseling, discipleship, and one-anothering are **critical** to the greater whole of church life.

God's Word is the critical, **indispensable** element in all forms of Christian discipleship. We **rely** on and **apply** sound doctrine to personal situations.

THE WHOLE CHURCH

More formal
(counseling)



Less formal
(discipleship)
Looks more like fellowship

Intensive,
for particular needs,
more problem-oriented



Less intense
more general in nature,
less problem-oriented



What is the public (saints) ministry of God's Word?

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2: Preaching
- Acts 19:8-9

What is the public (saints) ministry of God's Word?

You place yourself under the authority of God's Word publicly.

You invest yourself in how God is changing us into Christlikeness as His disciples and as His spiritual family.

What is the public (saints) ministry of God's Word?

Biblical counseling supports the preaching/teaching ministries of the church by ministering sound doctrine as an extension of these ministries.

What is the personal (self) ministry of God's Word?

- Acts 20:19: Serving others out of who you are in your own walk with Jesus.
- 1 Timothy 4:6-7, 15-16

What is the personal (self) ministry of God's Word?

You place yourself under the authority of God's Word personally.

You invest yourself in how God is changing you as His disciple and follower.

What is the personal (self) ministry of God's Word?

Biblical counseling is a means for you to be a faithful steward of the truth and change God is developing in you as you come alongside others in need of truth and change.

What is the private (sinners/sufferers) ministry of God's Word?

- Galatians 6:1-2; Acts 20:20, 27: One-on-one counseling and instruction
- 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Timothy 3:16; Ephesians 4:15

What is the private (sinners/sufferers) ministry of God's Word?

Biblical counseling supports the preaching and teaching ministries of the local church.

Biblical counseling applies the truth in love in the lives of others in an effort to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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