

Distinctive: Biblical Counseling

I. _____ for Biblical counseling at Crossway Church

- A. Elders view counseling as part of their shepherding responsibility.
- B. Elders consider equipping church members to counsel as part of their shepherding responsibility
- C. Members of the church counsel one another.
- D. Members have confidence in Christ and the Scriptures to help one another.
- E. Members are eager to be equipped to counsel others.
- F. The church demonstrates the power of the gospel by helping one another to live transformed lives.

II. Crossway Church's _____ to Biblical counseling

A. In our Biblical counseling we affirm a high view of Scripture

- 1. The Scriptures are sufficient.

2 Timothy 3:16–17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- 2. The Scriptures are authoritative.

A. In our Biblical counseling we affirm a Biblical view of man

Mark 7:21–23

21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

- 1. Everyone is sinful.
- 1. We reject “need theory”.

2. The Scriptures teaches that sinful human motivation roots in various *cravings* and *lusts* (Gal. 5:16–24, Eph. 2:3; James 1:14–16; 3:13–4:12).

B. In our Biblical counseling we affirm a high view of God and Christ.

1. We encourage people to look at everything in terms of their relationship with Christ.

James 4:1–4

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? **2** You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. **3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. **4** You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

2. We teach people to have a high view of God by appreciating all his attributes.
3. We challenge people to have the proper goal of pleasing Christ.
4. We teach people to rely on Christ because of the cross-work of Christ.

C. In our Biblical counseling we affirm the centrality of the local church.

1. We provide church-based counseling which involves placing yourself under shepherds who have watch over your soul.

Hebrews 13:17

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2. Through church-based counseling we fulfill our responsibility to build one another up in the faith.

Ephesians 4:11–13

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

3. There are practical benefits when counselor and counselee belong to the same local church.
4. Church-based counseling has built-in accountability.
5. Church-based counseling provides opportunity for others in the church besides the pastor/counselor to share in the care-giving load.

Do you have **questions/comments** about *Biblical counseling* that you would like to **discuss with a pastor**?

*** We want to answer your questions! Notes you make in this box at the end of each section can help jog your memory on things to bring up when you meet with a pastor as part of Crossway's membership process ***