

Biblical Sufficiency vs. the Medical Model

Life on Life: Personal Ministry 201

January 10, 2021

- Why should we equip each other to sharpen and help others?
- What is the goal of Life-on-Life Personal Ministry?
- What does personal ministry require?
- Define Life-on-Life personal ministry.

Week One Review

- Life-on-Life Ministry is personal interaction that is:
 - Rooted in God's authority
 - Rooted in Christ's sufficiency
 - Rooted in the sufficiency of Scripture. The Bible is inerrant so it has authority.
 - Because it is based on the authority and sufficiency of living and written Word it is superior to the wisdom of men



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Biblical Sufficiency - Personal Ministry

- Personal Ministry is:
 - Incarnational
 - Experiencing the Lord's care through a personal connection.
 - Propositional
 - Helping apply God's word to their situation.



- What is our confidence for personal ministry?
 - Not in our own wisdom, knowledge or experience.
 - The authoritative Word.

Biblical Sufficiency - Wisdom

- Where does the world seek wisdom?
 - In each other.
 - Luke 16:15

And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.



- In each other.

- 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”

²⁰ Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Biblical Sufficiency - Wisdom

- In each other.

- 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

⁸ Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS”; ²⁰ and again, “THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS.” ²¹ So then let no one boast in men. For all things belong to you, ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or things present or things to come; all things belong to you, ²³ and you belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.

- Life-on-Life ministry seeks to share God's wisdom not our own.
- Psalms 19:7
 - ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

- What is the testimony of the Lord?
- 1 Corinthians 1:22-24
For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- What does Biblical sufficiency mean?
 - The Bible is sufficient through the power of the Holy Spirit:
 - Giving us everything necessary to respond to any non-organic challenge.
 - Giving us everything necessary for us to experience increasing grace and peace.
 - Giving us all we need to experience the fruits of the Spirit.
 - Giving us everything we need for an abundant life.
 - Giving us everything we need to respond to life, both circumstances and people in a Godly fashion.

- What does Biblical sufficiency not mean?
 - That people who do not use the Bible cannot tell people things that can help them.
 - God's common grace reveals many principles that can be used to help others.
 - The church's goal should be to pass on those things that only we are equipped to do.

- Examination of Biblical Sufficiency
 - Think about a non-organic problem you have faced recently.. If the Bible's promises are true and work in the way the Bible says it can, how should we be doing?
 - Three passages:
 - Psalm 19:7 - 11
 - John 15:4 - 7, 1 John 1:7, Romans 8:4, Galatians 5:22-23
 - 2 Peter 1:2 - 3

- What are the promises of Psalm 19:7 - 11

- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
- ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
- ¹¹ Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
In keeping them there is great reward.

- What are the promises of Galatians 5:22- 23?
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - John 15:14 - 17 - Abide in Christ.
 - 1 John 1:7 - Walk in the light.
 - Romans 8:4 - Those who do these things are said to be walking in the Spirit.
 - Walking in the Spirit produces the fruits of the Spirit.

- What are the promises of 2 Peter 1:2 - 3?
² Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; ³ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
- Four Promises
 - Multiplied grace
 - Multiplied peace
 - Everything we need for life in abundance.
 - Everything we need for godliness.

Medical Model

- Not a single model. It describes a collection of efforts for help people that are not rooted in Scripture.
- Based on numerous theories of what is wrong with people or what is the root of peoples problems.
- Results in even more theories on how to treat the problems.

Medical Model

- Common characteristics:
 - A relationship with God and the Word is not central to the solution.
 - Sin is not the problem.
 - Man, within himself, has the ability to overcome his problems without the help of God.
- Other commonalities:
 - The struggling person is a patient.
 - Their issues are physical in origin.
 - Their behaviors are caused by externals, people or circumstances.
 - The solution is rooted either in medicine or by others unconditionally accepting the behavior.

- We are saying that for non-organic personal and relational problems, people who apply biblical truth in faith (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17), in reliance on the Holy Spirit, will be able to respond as God would have them, removing or living with the problem. What's more, they will grow to know and love and obey Him more, while almost all other approaches to helping people will go the opposite direction.