

Having Biblical Expectations in Counseling

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Introduction - "What do you expect to get out of these sessions?"

I. The Structure of the Already and the Not Yet

A. The Two Ages (Chart)

C. The Already (the Present)

1. The already of the Kingdom
Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13

2. The already of salvation

New creation – 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15

Resurrection (regeneration) – Eph. 2:7; Col. 3:1; Rom 8:11

The Spirit –

First fruits – Rom. 8:23

Pledge – Eph. 1:14

*Both images of the Spirit display an already and not yet perspective

Adoption – Gal. 4:4-7

Justification – Rom. 5:1

The powers of the age to come have invaded this present age.

B. The Not Yet (the Future)

1. The Not Yet of the Kingdom
1 Cor. 15:20-28

2. The Not Yet of salvation

New creation – glorification – resurrection

- 2 Pet. 3:13; 1 John 3:1; Phil. 3:21

Adoption - Rom. 8:23

Justification – Gal. 5:6

D. The present tension

1. We are living in the "last days" which is the time between inauguration and consummation. E.g., Acts 2:16-17; 1 Cor. 10:6, 11; Heb. 1:1-2

2. The present tension

In relation to this present world - 1 John 2:8, 17

In relation to the devil - Col. 2:15 and Heb. 2:14; cf 1 Pet. 5:7

In relation to the flesh – Rom. 6:6; cf. Gal 5:16

II. Foundational Principles

- A. Salvation (and sanctification) are eschatological realities
 - 1. The work of Christ and the work of the Spirit in this age is an invasion of the age to come
 - 2. Salvation has already been inaugurated, but NOT YET consummated
- B. There is fundamental tension then in living between the already and the not yet.
 - 1. This tension should frame our expectations
 - 2. This tension should prevent an overrealized eschatology
i.e., expecting too much
 - 3. This tension should prevent an underrealized present experience of the power of the Gospel and the Spirit
i.e., expecting too little

III. Application to Counseling

- A. What to expect in light of the *not yet*
 - 1. Not yet free from Suffering
Rom 8:18 – the suffering of this now time (present age)
2 Cor. 4:17 – light momentary
 - 2. Not yet through with sin
Gal. 5:17
- B. What to expect in light of *the already*
 - 1. Already a recipient of grace
 - 2. Growth and transformation
Rom. 6:15-22
- C. Counseling with an eternal perspective
Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 1 Pet. 1:4-5; Rev. 21:1-4

Two AGES – The Already & The Not Yet

