

Medicine and Biblical Sufficiency

Charles Hodges

Introduction: How do Biblical counseling and modern medicine mix?

“The sufficiency of scripture is not anti-medicine or anti-doctor; it is pro-Bible.”

Dr. Bob Smith

- I. Ground rules set by Scripture. Mark 5
 - A. The Gerasenes Demoniac. (verses 1-20)
 1. He was not medically ill!
 2. Today he would be identified as schizophrenic.
 3. The Incarnate Word was superior and sufficient.
 - B. A dying child and a suffering patient. (verses 21-43)
 1. Medicine was failing the child.
 2. Medicine had failed the suffering woman.
 3. Jesus was the superior and sufficient answer for the woman.
 4. The Incarnate Word was the superior and sufficient answer for the girl.
 5. No matter what the medical problem, if Jesus is there and so chooses, He will be sufficient and superior to whatever medicine can do.
 - C. What use are doctors?
 1. Healing starts in chapter 1 of Mark’s gospel.
 2. The sick need a physician! Mark 2:14-17
 3. Jesus did not always choose to heal the sick. John 11.
 4. Jesus did not heal Paul. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
 5. When God chooses not to act, we need physicians.

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- D. An important note: If Jesus is superior and sufficient, is His Word?
 - 1. Our Lord is completely identified with His Word and the Word is completely identified with Him. John 1:1-18.
 - 2. Jesus is the Truth. John 14:5-7.
 - 3. Jesus is the Truth and the Word is Truth! John 17:17.
 - 4. In the same way, when Jesus chose to be sufficient and superior in medicine, the Word He gave us will be sufficient and superior when it speaks about issues in medicine.

- II. How should Biblical counseling and medicine mix?
 - A. Definitions:
 - 1. Sufficiency. 2 Peter 1:1.
 - a. Sufficiency is, according to the Westminster Confession, “the whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for His own glory, man’s salvation, faith, and life, is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture.” (*A Theology of Biblical Counseling*, Lambert, page 42.)
 - b. “Christians sometime say that Scripture is sufficient for religion, or preaching, or theology, but not for such things as auto repairs, plumbing...and dentistry...That is to miss an important point. Certainly Scripture contains more specific information relevant to theology than dentistry. But sufficiency in the present context is not sufficiency of specific information, but sufficiency of divine words. Scripture contains divine words sufficient for all of life. It has the words the plumber needs, and all the divine words that the theologian needs. So, it is just as sufficient for plumbing as it is for theology. And in that sense, it is sufficient for science and ethics as well.” John Frame.
 - c. “The Bible tells a doctor all he needs to know in order to be a godly physician.” Dr. Bob Smith

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2. Integration.
 - a. The act of combining into a whole. Often reflects the idea that the two entities being integrated are equal. Particularly true for integrative Christian counseling.
 - b. This should not be integration as much as it is finding out where medicine fits in with the Scripture.
3. Medicine. The practice of medicine involves the diagnosis, treatment, or correction of human conditions physical or mental by any means, methods, devices or instruments.

B. Medicine and Biblical counseling should complement each other.

1. Benjamin Rush, MD.
2. Strep throat and Pica.
3. OCD.
4. Depression.



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