



IBCD

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

INSIDE

3

Farewell Marsha, Best Wishes

8

The 2017 Summer Institute

12

Helping Churches Better
Handle Cases of Abuse

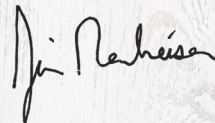
From the Directors

We knew that 2017 would be a time of transition with Jim's relocation to RTS Charlotte in the summer of last year. In some ways, we didn't even know the half of it. We were delighted to celebrate the marriage of our longtime administrator Marsha McGaugh in August and are now preparing for her retirement at the end of this year. Craig (our Director of Operations) has transitioned into pastoral ministry at Grace Bible Church and we are in the process of shifting his DOO responsibilities to a friend of IBCD, Bob Goudzwaard in Charlotte, NC.

What's been exciting to see is that what we thought would be merely a relocation has actually paved the way for expansion as new people have expressed interest in joining the IBCD team. You may already be hearing bits and pieces about some of the changes in the works. As you can imagine, there are many logistics involved, so please continue to pray for God's direction as we move forward. We look forward to sharing with you as this new chapter unfolds.

Through all of this, what remains constant is our focus on strengthening the church through one-another care. As we attended the CCEF and ACBC conferences this year we were impressed and thankful for the dozens of people who told us of the hundreds of leaders who are being trained through our material, which will bring blessing to thousands. Many of you have expressed thanks for all of the free resources on our website and app. You are listening to our materials and sharing them with others. All of this has affirmed to us the importance of pressing on to create and provide resources for you as you labor where God has called you, that you may be well equipped to address the complexities of life with the Word of God.

Dr. Jim Newheiser
Executive Director



Craig Marshall
Director of Operations





Farewell Marsha, Best Wishes

by Christina Henson

For the past 500 Mondays, give or take a few, one car pulled into the parking lot of the IBCD offices, one key turned in the lock, one hand flipped on the lights and one voice answered each of the thousands of calls for help with a polite “Hello, this is Marsha McGaugh speaking, how may I help you?” Yes, the name, voice and face of Marsha McGaugh are so implicitly woven into the fabric of IBCD that you hardly see or think of her at all. Until you take a moment to actually think about it.

Marsha has worn so many hats in her ten years serving at IBCD that hearing her name will evoke a different picture for each of you. To many of you hers was the first voice you heard when you finally got up the nerve to make that call for help, to admit to someone that your world was coming apart at the seams and you needed to know if there was anyone willing to meet with you. And Marsha was there to take your call, to lend an ear, to offer you a ray of hope. To others, hers has been the smile that has greeted you each year upon your arrival at the annual IBCD conference. Just walking up to her table of friendly greeters makes you feel relaxed and at home. To some, hers was the tap on the door to remind you that your next counselee was coming in ten minutes. To a few she was the one who always made sure your favorite drinks and snacks were waiting in your hotel room when you arrived for a speaking engagement. And to all of us she has in some way or another been a part of making the Institute for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship something that we love so much.



When you speak with those who know Marsha best, three qualities about her rise quickly to the top: her commitment to excellence, her unique combination of skills and experience, and her passion to help hurting people find comfort in God's Word. "The thing that encompasses everything about her is that she deeply cares about the ministry," says Executive Director Jim Newheiser.

In 2006 IBCD was in need of a receptionist and Marsha had begun volunteering, driving to the offices which were then at New Life Church in Escondido and offering her time on Monday nights after an already full day of work as a Commercial Account Manager. From that point on it was just a matter of time. "It became evident that there was nobody else like Marsha," recalls Newheiser. "She's a self-starter, a go-getter, she sees what needs to be done." Marsha was actually never looking for a career change but was essentially drafted by IBCD. "We finally convinced her to leave her job in insurance and come work for us because there was nobody else who shared the vision like she did," explains Newheiser.

Over the years Marsha has fleshed out that vision by serving IBCD in many capacities, from bookkeeping and event planning to pre-counseling the people who would call the center for help. "Marsha models really well what she believes. Even though she never got certified and took her own appointments on Monday, she practices what she preaches and contributes in her own way," says IBCD director of operations Craig Marshall. "It doesn't just take biblical counselors to make up the biblical counseling movement...Risk management is one of her huge passions, and helping people who need counseling does incur a lot of risk. She is good about helping us make sure we are protected and wise with things like insurance [which] has been a huge part of that," he explains.

"I've always been so impressed with how Marsha handles the IBCD summer conferences," says longtime friend and frequent IBCD volunteer Pat Kuhl. "She...took care of those extra little special details, like preparing gift baskets for each of the speakers and placing little baskets of candy in various places at the conference site so people could grab a little sweet something between sessions. You'd be surprised how much candy people can go through during a 3-day conference! She even provided a basket of Tylenol at conferences. Who thinks of that?! And at one of the recent conferences on some pretty heavy topics, nearly all the Tylenol was gone by the end," Kuhl remembers. "She wasn't one to wait to be told what to do, but just took it upon herself to think of what needed to be done and to go the extra mile."

In whatever capacity, her commitment to excellence and willingness to do what needed to be done were always fueled by a deep compassion and care for hurting people. “She hates that people are hurting and ... keeps us focused on hurting people,” says Marshall. “As one who has experienced deep hurt she empathizes with that and really wants to see people helped.”

Yes Marsha, like so many members of the IBCD family, loves the hurting because she herself was hurt deeply. In 2002 she was stunned by the infidelity of a husband followed by a divorce she never wanted and the ensuing adjustment to a completely new chapter of life as a single mother. Her background in counseling and the many biblical counseling resources she found at that time were key to helping her through she recalls.

“Most people, when they go through things think, ‘Why me?’ But really, why not me? I’m no better than anyone else. The biggest thing when you’re going through something like that is really trusting the Lord that he’s in control and that he loves you,” she says. Marsha clung to the promises of God, received help and support from her church, counseled herself and will attest that through it all the Lord upheld her.

“When you have gone through something yourself you can relate to people. You can use your trials to comfort others,” she says. And that really is the key to Marsha’s passion. She believes wholeheartedly in the comfort to be found in God’s Word because she herself came to know that comfort in a season of great trial. “I’ve seen Marsha go through times of joy and happiness...and through

times of difficulty, sorrow, and sadness,” says Kuhl. “But whether she’s on a mountain top or deep down in a valley, one thing remains constant: her rock solid faith in her solid Rock, Jesus Christ.”

And now, as He so often does, the Lord has brought Marsha into a much sweeter season, a season of celebration. On Saturday, August 12, a crowd of delighted friends and family watched as Marsha McGaugh said her vows and became Marsha Teas. The happiest of people at the event by far was, of course, Bill, the groom. “God has provided this wonderful man who loves her,” says Kuhl. “They laugh a lot together, and Bill is so kind to her. I know it’s just a wonderful blessing for both of them.”

After a few weeks off to prep for the wedding and honeymoon in Kauai, Marsha returned to the office to see IBCD through the year and prepare for her retirement. “I’m ready to have fun,” says Marsha. “I’ve got my new Tuff Shed and it’s 10x12. I can’t wait to work more in the yard.” She also looks forward to taking cooking classes and having more time for her granddaughters and friends. But don’t imagine that Marsha Teas will be spending all her time potting plants and puttering around. Marsha and Bill recently converted her old shed into an office and she’ll be applying her skills and talents in this new life phase to help Bill run his business out of their home.

We are so thankful for Marsha’s decade of faithful service. Her standards of excellence, the skills she brings to the table and her passion to help the hurting have been rich assets to IBCD. We look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for her as this new chapter unfolds.







ADDICTIONS

GRACE FOR THE JOURNEY

The IBCD 2017 Summer Institute

Drug abuse, alcoholism, pornography. These words hardly evoke images of smiling families filing into service on a Sunday morning, yet the reality is many of the people filling our pews are enslaved to life-dominating sins. What can we do? What should we say? Can pastors, church leaders and fellow Christians offer any real help or hope to people whose lives are spinning out of control?

This year's keynote speakers, Ed Welch, Mark Shaw, Charlie Hodges and Jim Newheiser, focused in on how gospel grace is the source of all real hope both for those struggling with addiction and the loved ones who suffer from the impact of their choices.

As with all our events, we make these audios available to you free of charge on our website and in our resource app. You can also view the videos for all six general sessions. Becoming an IBCD supporting church or organization gets you access to videos for all workshops as well.

To download the audios, view the videos or learn more about the Supporting Church Program visit ibcd.org. Audios from this event include *Every Addict Lives with Shame*, *To Be Human Is to Say No*, *Biblical Insights into Addiction*, *Understanding Temptation*, *How the Physiology of Addiction Complicates Counseling*, *Helping People Come to the God who Satisfies* and many more.

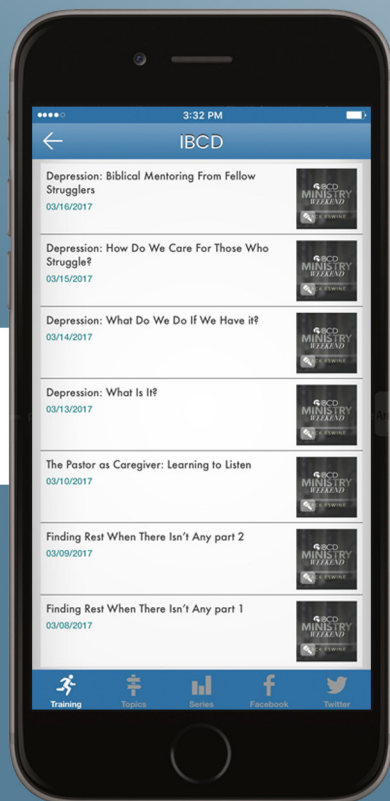


DOMESTIC ABUSE

PRE-CONFERENCE WITH CHRIS MOLES

Domestic violence is something that no biblical counselor ever wants to encounter, but with a reported 1 in 3 women claiming to have experienced violence by an intimate partner the unfortunate reality is that men in our churches do abuse their wives. The church should be lauded as an advocate for the oppressed as well as an entity calling abusers to true, biblical repentance, but too often she has fallen short of this ideal. Thanks be to God that even in a complex issue like domestic violence, both abusers and their victims can find hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The IBCD 2017 pre-conference offered a wealth of resources for counselors involved in these difficult cases. You can listen to an interview with keynote speaker Chris Moles, author of *The Heart of Domestic Abuse*, download the audios *What is Domestic Violence*, *Substance Abuse and Domestic Violence*, *The Impact of Abuse on Children*, *Counseling Controlling Husbands*, and *Victim Care* and find many more helpful resources from experienced biblical counselors for free on our website.



Download the free resource app



The easiest way to jump right in and access our growing library of free resources, including key training audios and our new podcast episodes.

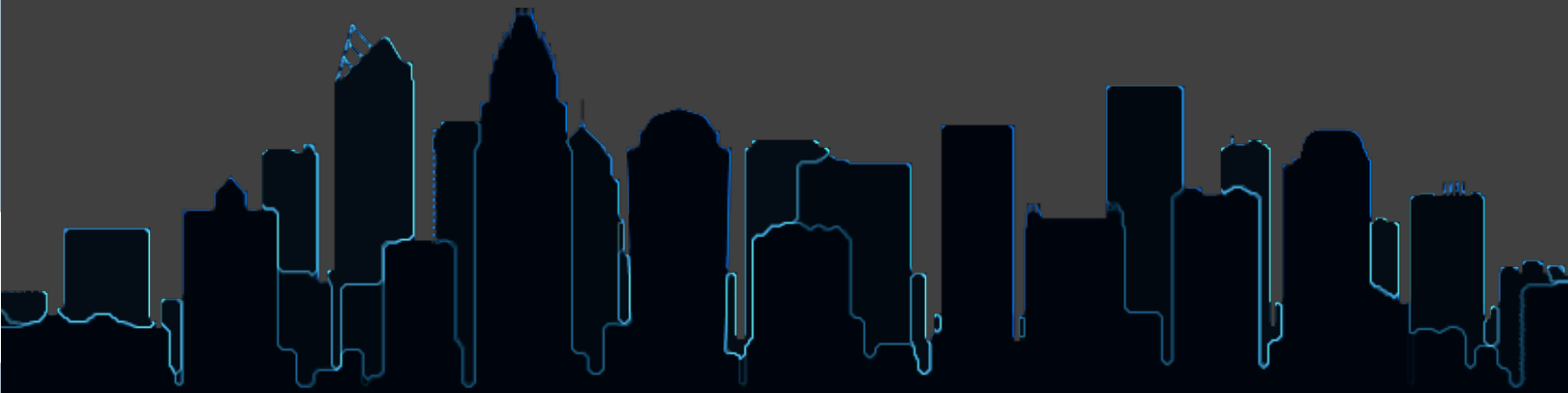
STAY IN YOUR CHURCH GET YOUR DEGREE

INTRODUCING THE NEW SUMMER/WINTER MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

NOT EVERYONE CAN PICK UP AND MOVE. THAT'S WHY WE DESIGNED A NEW FORMAT FOR OUR MACC DEGREE. WHETHER YOU'RE A PASTOR, A WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADER, OR A VOLUNTEER, OUR 4 YEAR PART-TIME PROGRAM WILL EQUIP YOU TO OFFER WISE BIBLICAL COUNSELING TO THOSE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

WWW.RTS.EDU/CHARLOTTE/CHRISTIANCOUNSELING

1.800.755.2429



REFORMED  THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
CHARLOTTE

Helping Churches Better Handle Cases of Abuse

by Jim Newheiser

Sadly, I have been witness to a discouraging pattern in local churches as they handle cases involving abuse. It begins as church leaders are made aware of a situation in which a husband is acting abusively towards his wife, and it has been going on for quite some time. The abuse may include any or all of the following: coercion, threats, outbursts of anger, or some degree of physical force. Typically, church leaders get involved late in the situation because the victim is in fear of reporting her abuser, or perhaps thinks she is somehow to blame for his actions.

Church leaders often initially treat these cases as typical marital conflict, treating the sins of each party in a more or less equal way. They fail to make a sufficient distinction between the wife's "misdemeanor" sins of provocation or disrespect, and the husband's "felonious" sins of murderous anger. Abusive husbands intensify this problem as they manipulate the situation and focus their counselor's attention on the wife's faults.

As the church intervention progresses, the relationship between the husband and wife continues to deteriorate. In spite of the husband's promises to change, hateful outbursts of anger, intimidation, manipulative control and even violence persist. Church leaders realize the seriousness of the husband's sin, and take steps to put pressure

on him and to protect his wife and children. They counsel the husband separately with the hope that he will truly repent and the marriage can be reconciled. Sometimes at this stage the church leaders agree that a physical separation may be necessary for the safety of the wife and children.

When the pressure is ramped up, the husband willingly participates in counseling and is outwardly compliant towards church leadership. The wife, on the other hand, begins to be influenced by certain friends, family, and various victims' advocates (online and in print) who tell her that her church leadership has failed and that she should divorce her husband. Her heart becomes hardened and eventually she announces that she is done and plans to leave.

Because the husband claims to be repentant and appears compliant to church leadership, and the wife refuses to be reconciled, church leadership initiates a process of church discipline against the wife for divorcing her husband without biblical grounds. The wife and victim advocates publicly label the church leadership as heartless enablers of abuse and threaten lawsuits. Gossip infiltrates the church and further divisions ensue.

My question is, what can be done to break this tragic pattern? Surely the church can protect the helpless while also upholding the sanctity of marriage. It would be my desire that church leaders might consider the following suggestions:

“ My question is, what can be done to break this tragic pattern? Surely the church can protect the helpless while also upholding the sanctity of marriage . ”

1. Church leaders need to be well informed regarding the multiple, deceitful ways in which abusers harm their victims and manipulate those in authority. Claims of abuse need to be taken seriously, investigated thoroughly (Prov 25:2), and acted upon expeditiously (Prov 31:8-9). Pas-

tors and counselors who press in on abusers know that they will reveal themselves by their words. The sin that lies in their hearts will expose them (Luke 6:45; Gal 6:7-8).

2. Even if the wife is responding imperfectly to her husband's sinful anger (Prov 22:24-25), her more common marital sins of selfishness and careless speech should not be treated as equivalent to the sins of violence, harsh verbal outbursts (Prov 11:9; 12:18), physical intimidation, and manipulative threats made by her husband. Abusers need to come under the discipline of the church and victims must be protected. Err on the side of safety.

3. Both the abuser and the victim need godly counsel. It is usually best to counsel them separately at first so that the wife's abuser will not intimidate her during the session. She needs protection and healing. The abuser needs strong admonition and accountability. I highly recommend Chris Moles' *The Heart of Domestic Abuse*, which takes a tough love approach with an abuser while also offering hope that he can be changed through God's Word and Spirit.

4. An abuser's claim to be repentant should be carefully tested and proven over a period of time. Many abusers are skilled at working programs and saying what counselors and church leaders want to hear. The Scriptures below contrast the characteristics of worldly sorrow that results in death with the qualities of true repentance that lead to salvation (2 Cor 7:10-11).

Characteristics of worldly sorrow (2 Cor 7:10b)

1. *Self-focused* (1 Sam 15:30; Gen 4:13)
2. *Hates the consequences of sin* (Gen 4:14; Acts 8:24; Ex 10:16-18)
3. *Self-protective* (Gen 4:14; 1 Sam 15:30)
4. *Blames others* (Gen 3:12; 1 Sam 15:19-21, 24)
5. *Impatiently demands trust and restoration* (1 Sam 15:30)
6. *Criticizes the disciplinary process* (Gen 4:13)
7. *Unchanged heart that does not produce fruit* (Luke 3:7-9)

Characteristics of true repentance (2 Cor 7:9-11)

1. *God-focused* (Ps 51:4a; 2 Sam 12:13)
2. *Hates the sin* (Ps 32:5; Ps 51:1-3)
3. *Fully accepts responsibility* (Ps 51:3; 2 Sam 24:10)
4. *Concerned for others* (2 Sam 24:17; Phil 2:3-4)
5. *Patiently accepts consequences* (Ps 51:4b; 2 Sam 24:13-14)
6. *Submits to discipline and accountability* 1 Cor 10:12; 2 Cor 7:8)
7. *Changed heart that produces fruit* (Ps 51:6-12; Luke 19:1-10 3:8)

5. Churches should handle situations in which the victim of abuse chooses to pursue divorce very gently and carefully. Abused wives

often become hardened towards their husbands. They sometimes are critical and disrespectful towards those in the church who try to counsel them. Church leaders may be tempted to react against this bad attitude by disciplining the wife for her hard-heartedness in pursuing a divorce without clear biblical grounds. Wisdom and compassion are necessary for a biblical response on the part of the church as well as the woman.

6. When a victim has given up hope of her marriage being reconciled it is prudent to ask for patience on all sides. Time should be allowed to see if the Lord might work to genuinely transform the abuser and to soften the heart of the victim. The abuser can demonstrate the sincerity of his repentance by patiently respecting his spouse's need for time and space rather than pressing to be allowed to return home and have his full marital rights restored. The victim should be assured that she will not be pressured to go back to an unsafe situation.

7. In spite of the counsel of church leaders (who hope that the marriage can be restored), some victims are absolutely determined to press ahead with divorce. My understanding is that Scripture does not teach that church leaders are obligated to exercise church discipline in every case of divorce. In 1 Corinthians 7:10-11, Paul tells a wife not to leave her husband, but then he says, "But if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband." Paul cannot affirm her decision to leave, but rather than put her out of the church or treat her as an unbeliever, he speaks to her as a Christian sister and tells her that she must either be reconciled to her husband or remain unmarried.

While we are not told why the woman in Paul's example chose to depart from her marriage this passage fits some of the
(continued on next page)

(continued) situations churches face today. The wife wants out of the marriage because she believes that the abuser has violated the marriage covenant through his violent actions. While church leaders may hope that the abuser is really a believer and truly repentant, they cannot be absolutely sure. It is very possible, humanly speaking, that in the months or years to come he will go back to his abusive behavior.

This may serve to demonstrate that he is truly not a believer. Church leaders may rightly plea for the victim to be open to reconciliation, but if she will not, they are not obligated to put her under formal church discipline. Instead they should show compassion for how she has been horribly mistreated and express appreciation for her previous efforts to save the marriage. They might even need to seek forgiveness for not intervening as quickly and strongly as they should have when they first learned of the abuse. They can tell her that, while they cannot give their blessing to her decision to divorce or acknowledge her freedom to remarry, they will not press charges against her in formal church discipline. They also can express that they want to continue to lovingly minister to her and her children during this difficult time.

It could be that, over a longer period of time, the husband would prove himself to be truly repentant and the wife's heart would be softened so that they could remarry. It also might happen that the husband would prove himself to be an unbeliever who has no interest in living peaceably in marriage. In this case, according to my understanding of 1 Cor. 7:15, the wife would be free to remarry.

For an extended version of this article with detailed endnotes, please visit Jim's blog at jnewheiser.ibcd.org



Book Spotlight

MARRIAGE DIVORCE AND REMARriage

CRITICAL
QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS



JIM NEWHEISER

Marriage Divorce and Remarriage: Critical Questions and Answers

Dr. Jim Newheiser (Review by Tim Challies)

We are well-served with books on marriage. Whether we are approaching our wedding day or closing in on our 50th anniversary, we've got lots of wise counsel to turn to: *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim and Kathy Keller, *Married for God* by Christopher Ash, *When Sinners Say, "I Do,"* by Dave Harvey, and on and on. But while we are well-served with books on marriage, we are not nearly so well-served with books on divorce and remarriage. And while we may wish we had no need for such works, the sad fact is they are necessary.

New to the market is Jim Newheiser's *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage: Critical Questions and Answers*. This book adopts a Q&A format to answer a host of important questions spanning dating and engagement to separation, divorce, and remarriage. It is all built upon the premise that God "has revealed in his infallible, timeless, and all-sufficient Word the nature of marriage, the obligations of marriage, who may be married, and when divorce and remarriage are permissible."

Of course, there is little controversy among orthodox Christians about marriage. We all agree it is an institution designed by God for the benefit of humanity. We agree that it is defined something like this: "A lifelong covenant of companionship between a man and a woman that has been established under God and before the community." Where there is much less unanimity is in the area of divorce and remarriage. While what Newheiser says about dating, courtship, and marriage are helpful, what he says about divorce and remarriage make his book a uniquely helpful and important contribution.

Among Christians there are essentially two positions on divorce and remarriage. The majority view is that the Bible allows for divorce and remarriage under a limited set of circumstances; the minority or permanence view insists that a Christian may never initiate divorce and may never remarry so long as their spouse is alive. At their best, both views protect the sanctity of marriage by guarding against easy divorce and both views protect innocent parties who may be suffering at the hands of an abusive or otherwise ungodly spouse.

Newheiser takes and defends the majority view, but he first insists that divorce is never desirable and, at least among Christians, never inevitable. "While we should labor to understand what the Bible says about whether or when a marriage may end in divorce and whether or when a divorced person may remarry, it is most important to strive to learn how the gospel can enable shattered relationships to heal." While he insists that divorce is always unfortunate and contrary to God's design for marriage, he also insists the Bible allows for it in cases of adultery or abandonment. By my assessment he defends the position well through his careful interaction with the relevant biblical texts.

As I read this book, I was especially struck by the centrality of the local church in God's plan for the world, for it plays a key role in both the forming and the dissolving of marriages. The local church bears a special responsibility to protect the vulnerable and discipline the wayward. When she handles these responsibilities seriously through teaching, counseling, and even excommunication, she protects those who need protection and disciplines those who need discipline. I can't help but wonder how much the prevalence of divorce among professed Christians simply proves that the church has abdicated some of her key responsibilities.

Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage is a strong book and one that will prove valuable to pastors, counselors, and church members. After all, few of us are untouched by issues related to divorce and remarriage; fewer still have diligently sought to understand what the Bible teaches on these important subjects. This book will help correct this.



Tim Challies serves as a pastor at Grace Fellowship Church in Toronto, Ontario and is a popular blogger, author and book reviewer. He will be joining us as a keynote speaker for our 2018 Summer Institute – *Loving Wayward Souls*.

Visit him online:
www.challies.com

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors has been training and certifying counselors since 1976. The biblical counseling movement has grown in the last 40 years as thousands are now being trained and certified yearly, but there remains a great need. We need men and women who know that God's Word is sufficient for life and godliness. We need men and women who understand how to love people by bringing them face to face with the life-giving Word of God. We need men and women to take the lead in showing the world that the care of eternal souls belongs in the church, not in the therapist's chair.

We need you. Will you join us?

GET TRAINED

In order to start ACBC Certification, find the nearest ACBC Certified Training source near you on our website under Phase I.

BE TESTED

The best biblical counselors are excellent theologians. Phase II involves examination in the areas of theology and biblical counseling.

FINISH CERTIFICATION

Walking through a year of counseling with an ACBC Supervisor is the capstone of the training and certification process in Phase III.

www.biblicalcounseling.com
(502) 410-5526





Your Support

Here at IBCD we are always working to find new ways to produce and distribute resources in one-another care. We know that many churches want better counseling communities but feel the need for more training. As always, it's your dedicated financial assistance that helps us go the distance to meet these needs.

This year, we've produced over 50 hours of new content from the Care & Discipleship podcast and recordings from the Summer Institute. Another point of progress involves expanding our offerings to include Spanish resources. We are currently working with a team in Ecuador to do voice-overs of our Observation videos as well as adding Spanish content to our website in response to the growing demand for these resources in the US and Latin America.

We've also launched an important initiative – the Supporting Church program. This new approach was designed to be the easiest way to take biblical counseling training back to your church.

Becoming a Supporting Church (or Organization) equips you to counsel while also helping spread one-another care around the globe. Members will receive full access to all of our streaming video resources, discounted handbook pricing and complimentary and discounted event registration

It is also an investment in the further development of counseling resources which are immediately made available to all subscribers. Whenever we release new content, members will have full access right away. This is becoming especially beneficial as we are now recording all of the Summer Institute on video.

Looking ahead to 2018, we're planning to produce more resources, translate more videos, expand our podcast, and make everything as accessible and affordable as possible for churches around the world. Whether it's as a Supporting Church or through single donations, we're so thankful for your help in accomplishing the mission of IBCD!

You can pledge your support and explore all of the new resources available for you and your church at www.ibcd.org/donate



The Institute for Biblical Counseling & Discipleship
A ministry of Grace Bible Church of North County
655 West 11th Avenue • Escondido, CA 92025

DAVE HARVEY

TIM CHALLIES

ZACK ESWINE

JIM NEWHEISER

JUNE 21-23, 2018

Register at ibcd.org/wayward

{ LOVING WAYWARD SOULS }

GRACE FOR OUR PRODIGALS



2018 SUMMER INSTITUTE