

LECTURE 2

NOUTHETIC COUNSELING IS UNIQUE

INTRODUCTION

When you counsel biblically what you do will be unique. That is to say, in the absolute sense of the word—that which is the only thing of its kind.

I BECAUSE THE ATMOSPHERE IS UNIQUE

- A The Holy Spirit is present and working in people's lives
- B The counselor/counselee relationship is not primary
 - 1 There is a seriousness about the session
 - 2 The counseling issue is a matter between the counselee and God, not the counselor
- C A number of different things happen in a biblical counseling session
 - 1 We open and use the Bible
 - 2 We pray and ask God to *do* something
 - 3 We instruct the counselee to do what pleases God
 - 4 We submit to God and His Word
 - 5 We call on the counselee to repent and change
- D You must make your counselee aware of the uniqueness of the environment in your counseling room

II BECAUSE THOSE YOU COUNSEL ARE UNIQUE

- A Your counselees are “saints”
 - 1 Someone who is set apart, different
 - 2 They have the Spirit of God dwelling within them (Romans 5:5)
- B They are capable of change
 - 1 So we do not give up on our counselees
 - 2 We expect change because we know they *can* change
- C They can understand the Bible

Philippians 2:13

. . . it is God Who is producing in you both the willingness and the ability to do the things that please Him.

III BECAUSE YOUR OBJECTIVES ARE UNIQUE

- A The goal of others: help counselees solve problems; get relief
- B Your goal for your counselee: to please God!

IV BECAUSE YOUR METHODS ARE UNIQUE

- A Other methods may seem the same as ours, but they are quite different
 - 1 Means are similar, methods are unique
 - Means: how we accomplish our ends
 - Talk
 - Listening
 - Methods: the application of means to an end, that are committed to the goals of a system
 - Talk

- Listening
 - Skinner would have never used Rogers' methods, nor Rogers Skinner's
- 2 Christians cannot pull methods from secular systems and hope to produce results that please God
 - e.g.—temperament personality theory
 - Our methods must flow from the Bible
 - 3 Examples of our methods
 - Pray
 - Church Discipline

V BECAUSE YOUR SETTING WILL BE UNIQUE

A Your counseling will be in conjunction with the church

- 1 Churches should not *have* counseling centers
- 2 Churches should *be* counseling centers

B Every church member should be able to counsel others in the church

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, even if a person is caught in some trespass, you who have the Spirit should restore him in a spirit of meekness, watching out for yourselves so that you won't be tempted too.

This is the second point, that he did not only teach all men in the congregation, but also every one privately, as every man's necessity did require. For Christ hath not appointed pastors upon this condition, that they may only teach the Church in general in the open pulpit; but that they may take charge of every particular sheep, that they may bring back to the sheepfold those which wander and go astray, that they may strengthen those which are discouraged and weak, that they may cure the sick, that they may lift up and set on foot the feeble, (Ezek. 34:4;) for common doctrine will oftentimes wax cold, unless it be holpen with private admonitions.

Wherefore, the negligence of those men is inexcusable, who, having made one sermon, as if they had done their task, live all the rest of their time idly; as if their voice were shut up within the church walls, seeing that so soon as they be departed, thence they be dumb.

JOHN CALVIN

VI BECAUSE YOUR INCENTIVES WILL BE UNIQUE

A All your counseling will have eternal consequences

1 Colossians 3:23-24

2 2 John 8

B You will be able to make promises that are guaranteed by God
(2 Peter 1:3-4)

VII BECAUSE YOUR RESULTS WILL BE UNIQUE

A Counselees will be edified (2 Corinthians 13:10)

B God will be glorified

C Even when all seems to fail

VIII ALL THESE THINGS ARE TRUE BECAUSE JESUS IS UNIQUE

A John 3:16

B *monogenes* – the only one of a kind