

## **CLASS 1–Intro & Ch.1**

What is at stake in this discussion?–Clarity in the following areas:

- 1) The sufficiency of Scripture; 2) The purpose of the church;
- 3) Every Christian’s responsibility

Eph. 4:11-16–A church’s stated purpose or mission statement heavily influences where a church lands on this issue of who is responsible and qualified to care for souls.

Counseling definitions:

- the provision of assistance and guidance in resolving personal, social, or psychological problems and difficulties, especially by a professional.<sup>1</sup>
- a process where an individual, couple or family meet with a trained professional counsellor to talk about issues and problems that they are facing in their lives. Professional counselling is confidential and non-judgmental.<sup>2</sup>
- professional guidance of the individual by utilizing psychological methods especially in collecting case history data, using various techniques of the personal interview, and testing interests and aptitudes.<sup>3</sup>

Biblical counseling passages containing biblical terms for counseling:

2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ps. 19:7-14; 2 Pet. 1:2-4; Col. 1:28; Rom. 15:14; 1 Thess. 5:14

What are the options with regards to counseling that churches have practiced?

- Refer *all* types of counseling to professionals *outside* of the church
- Refer *some* types of counseling to professionals *outside* of the church
- Refer *all* types of counseling to professionals *inside* of the church
- Refer *some* types of counseling to professionals *inside* of the church
- Tell those in the church they do not need counseling since they receive preaching and teaching of the Word corporately
- *All* counseling is performed by the pastors/elders in the church
- The pastors/elders perform a *significant portion* of the counseling, but the members of the body are also performing or aspiring to perform counseling in the church

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<sup>1</sup> <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>. Accessed 9/6/24.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.visioncounselling.com.au/what-is-counselling/>. Accessed 9/6/24.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/counseling>. Accessed 9/6/24.

## The Church as a Culture of Care – Sunday School (Fall 2024)

**Intro**—“The Bible explains our human experiences better than any human wisdom” (5).

“The dismissal of these resources graciously provided to us by our all-sufficient God leaves us dependent upon the insufficient and ever-shifting shadows of earthly wisdom” (4).

**Ch.1**—“Biblical Counseling is the personal discipleship ministry of God’s people to others under the oversight of God’s church, dependent upon the authority and sufficiency of God’s word through the work of the Holy Spirit. Biblical counseling seeks to reorient disordered desires, affections, thoughts, behaviors, and worship toward a God-designed anthropology in an effort to restore people to a right fellowship with God and others. This is accomplished by speaking the truth in love and applying Scripture to the need of the moment by comforting the suffering and calling sinners to repentance, thus working to make them mature as they abide in Jesus Christ” (9).

The danger of integrationism (Christian counseling): “‘integrationism’ often has good intentions, but does not see the primacy of the Bible for soul care. An unintended consequence is the continued professionalism of soul care, the neglect of the Scripture, and the marginalization of the church’s role to care for souls” (8).

In Stuart Scott’s article, *“The Failing Attempt of Integration Psychology,”* he puts forth the following differences between integrationism and biblical counseling:

**I. INTEGRATION FAILS BECAUSE IT FOLLOWS A DIFFERENT MANDATE**  
(Not the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20)

**II. INTEGRATION FAILS BECAUSE IT HAS A DIFFERENT MESSAGE**  
(Not the good news of Jesus Christ dying for *sins*)

- a. Different view of person
- b. Different view of situation
- c. Different view of resources
- d. Different view of change process
- e. Different view of God

**III. INTEGRATION FAILS BECAUSE IT USES A DIFFERENT METHOD**  
(Not utilizing the propositional truths of Scripture to derive theological conclusions that apply to all of life)

“Every aspect of the work of the church is intended to care for souls. Preaching, shepherding, one-anothering, church disciple, missionary proclamation, personal obedience—all are intended to awaken or strengthen the soul to live faithfully and peacefully in a . . . sin-cursed world. If Jesus cared for others by the truth of God’s word in these various ways, shouldn’t the church under his headship do the same without reservation?” (17)