

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTH 554: The Relationships of the Leader

COURSE SYLLABUS
Meets Wednesdays, 11-1:45

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines and evaluates the dynamics of significant relationships in the life of a leader. A biblical-developmental examination of marriage and family, friendships, collegial and mentoring relationships, community connections, staff rapport and other significant interpersonal connections will be undertaken. This course will look at the character and competencies needed for healthy relationships and also provide an introduction to problem solving for some of the common behavior problems leaders confront in the communities and organizations they lead.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

With diligent study, students will demonstrate ability to

1. Identify areas in their lives that need to be developed in order to become better listeners and enjoy healthier relationships.
2. Evaluate personal vulnerabilities in the arenas of money, sexual fidelity and power.
3. Design an intentional Growth Program for themselves and fellow-leaders to strengthen core relationships.
4. Design a premarital and post-marital outline that will prepare adults for marriage and help solve common problems faced by couples.
5. Understand between personal encouragement and advice, spiritual direction, coaching, lay counseling, pastoral counseling and professional counseling
6. Develop healthy intentional relationships within and without her/his community, including friendship, colleague, mentor and professional relationships.
7. Craft a short-term counseling model that will benefit pastoral and lay leaders in the local church.
8. Communicate principles that confront and ameliorate some of the more common problems faced by spiritual leaders.
9. Communicate and foster friendship with people outside the church/ministry community.

TEXTBOOKS: These are required

Benner, David G. *Strategic Pastoral Counseling: A Short-Term Structured Model* (2nd edition) Baker Books 2003. ISBN: 0801026318

Chapman, Gary. *Covenant Marriage*. B&H Publishing. 2003 ISBN: 0805425764

Foster, Richard. *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Christian Reflections on Money, Sex and Power*. Harper One 1989. ISBN: 0060628286

McGinnis, Alan Loy, *The Friendship Factor* (25th Anniversary revised edition). 2004. ISBN: 0806635711

Students are required to read five articles from reputable sources (and written between 2007 and 2010) on the following topics:

- Accountability and Leadership: Authority, Responsibility and Friendship
- The Leader and Her/His Staff – Relational Dynamics
- Sexual Fidelity
- Marriage and Ministry
- The Leader and the Larger Community – Relationships with Non-Believers

METHODOLOGY

This class will employ lecture, select video presentations, and group discussion and guest presenters. Students should come ready for open and honest exchange in a safe environment. This is NOT a therapy class, but it does examine important intrapersonal and interpersonal issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (See Schedule below for due dates)

1. Consistent attendance and active participation are a vital part of the learning experience. Please inform the instructor if you must miss class and work with fellow students to procure tapes/notes of any missed material.
2. On the assigned days (eight in number), students will submit a form affirming that they have read the assigned passages in the textbooks. **The form is attached.**
3. There will be five (4) reflective essays, 4-5 pages in length, reflecting interaction with both classroom and reading assignments. See the Schedule below for due dates.
4. There will be five (4) journal article reviews of 2-3 pages each, summarizing and analyzing the journal articles described above. Further parameters will be given in class.
5. Students will prepare a “Relationship Matrix” – a creative portrayal of the different types of relationships they are currently in and what steps they should take to enhance them, change them, or in some cases, let them go.

6. As a final project, there will be an 8-10 page term paper exploring a key relational challenge for leaders: authority, family, peer, staff, etc. The professor must approve the topics. This will be due the final class day and should employ at least five outside sources beyond the class texts. APA or Turabian styles are both acceptable and good writing free from major grammar and spelling errors is expected.

GRADING

The following values will be assigned:

- Essays: 3 @ 50 points each = 150 points
- Journal Reviews: 4 @ 25 points each = 100 points
- Relationship Matrix: 50 points
- Final Paper: 100 points
- Reading Verification: 8@10 points each = 80 points
- Participation: 20 points
- Total: 500 points

Grading is done on a percentage scale according to Seminary guidelines, with “+” or “-” attachments indicating quality within the scope of a letter grade:

- 94-100% = A; 90-93% = A-; 87-89% = B+; 84-86% = B, and so on through the grades. Any work below 60% will be failing.
- It is expected that student work is graduate level and free from major mistakes. If it has been awhile since you have done academic work, take a little extra time to proofread and even have a friend read the work before submission – it is amazing what another set of eyes can do!

CLASS AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (* denotes Reading Verification Due)

1-06: Biblical Foundations for the Leaders and Relationships

1-13: An Overview of 21st century relationships **Journal Review: Accountability**

1-20: *Confronting ourselves: (*Foster: first half*)

1-26: *Living with Freedom: (*Foster: second half*) **Essay # 1**

2-03: *Marriage and Family Dynamics I (*Chapman: first half*)

2-10: *Marriage and Family Dynamics II (*Chapman: second half*) **Journal Review: the Leader and the Staff**

2-17: *Healthy Friendships (McGinnis – first half) **Essay # 2**

2-24: Study week – No Class

3-3: *Healthy Friendships (*McGinnis*: Second half)

3-10: (Chapel, 11-12:15): Emotional and Spiritual Maturity **Relationship Matrix due**

3-17: Sexual Fidelity I: Dr. Cheryl Taylor: **Journal Review on sexual fidelity**

3-24: Sexual Fidelity II: Dr. Cheryl Taylor

3-31: *Boundaries of Godly Counsel I (*Benner – first half*) **Essay # 3**

4-07: *Boundaries of Godly Counsel II (*Benner – second half*)

4-14: Friendships with “Outsiders” **Journal review on the leader and the community**

4-21: **Final Paper**

Essay Topics

Due on 1-26: Comment on 4-5 factors that hinder closeness to God and healthy relationships. Be sure to reference Scripture, Foster and your experience.

Due on 2-17: Why is it so difficult for spouses and family members to pray together? What are the ingredients of healthy family spirituality?

Due 3-31: What are three reasons people struggle with sexual fidelity? What are three beginning principles for being Biblically pure?

Final Paper due 4-21

FINAL DETAILS

1. Please turn off cell phones in class.
2. It is a real challenge to juggle family, ministry, work and school! Do your best to focus and do as well as you can in the time you have. It is better to learn and finish the course on time with a B+ than procrastinate or be a perfectionist and add even more stress!
3. DO call, drop by or email the instructor for help or prayer
4. If you need special learning accommodation, please notify AGTS and the appropriate adjustments will be made!

Journal Review Basics:

1. At the top of page one, give full bibliographic information of the article.
2. Summarize the major thesis and key supporting insights of the author.
3. Analyze the article for its 1) accuracy, 2) insight and 3) importance.
4. Critically evaluate what you agree or disagree with.
5. Give a brief summary statement.

Some tips for writing good papers:

1. Excellent grammar, spelling and syntax are assumed at the graduate level. Proofread, read aloud and/or have a friend or colleague look at it if you are in doubt.
2. Gender-inclusive language (except for references to the Holy Trinity) is a must.
3. Shorter, active-voice sentences are better than long, passive-voice expressions.
4. Avoid the use of first-person language unless the context warrants a word of personal reflection. Also, do not use the pretentious “we” unless it refers to a community.
5. A “C” paper reflects rather rote retelling of material. A “B” paper is a very good work, with solid personal engagement and reflection. An “A” paper is above the norm, with clear evidence of excellent analysis.

Syllabus prepared 10-09 by Dr. Charlie Self

Reading Verification:

Name _____

Date _____

I, _____ certify that I have read _____ in preparation for today's class.

The Relationships of the Leader:
Revelation and Relationships – Biblical-Theological Insights

Relationships are everything

OK, perhaps we can say it all comes down to revelation and relationships

Let's start at the beginning: God = The Triune God we worship is an eternal Relation of Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Going Deeper: Three key facets of God's own Being:

God is Love (I John 4)

God is Holy, holy, holy (Isaiah 6; Revelation 4-5)

God is One (Deuteronomy 6)

Before Space and Time, before all Creation, God is forever a Divine Dance of Love, Holiness and Unity, Eternal, Unique, Unchanging

Therefore, Creation is an act of love, a decision of the Triune God to share His Life with us and be vulnerable to a freewill response of God's greatest artifact!

The consummation of history is a wedding feast, making the entire cosmic narrative a romantic comedy!

The Divine determination to be in relationship with humankind was/is the compelling force behind the Incarnation, Cross, Resurrection and Ascension of The Eternal Logos, revealed in history and forever enfleshed as our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Triune God is most fully revealed in the manifold witness of the Church (Ephesians 3:10), as the mystery of God's new community is unveiled through the Gospel.

Let me say it again – relationships are everything to God – and to us.

Another first thought: All of life is relationship-based – our family, work, social and political worlds, economics and all facets of civil living rest upon various types of relationships.

Overview of Our Study

We will examine the comprehensive and concise way that the Scriptures evaluate the relationships of a leader, with two things in mind – 1) leaders have the same relationships as others; and 2) leaders have unique challenges as they lead communities and organizations forward.

We will examine the three great personal challenges that can color any relationship – Money, Sex and Power. One of these three challenges will be a part of any connection, but they pose particular challenges for leaders

Marriage was the Edenic ideal for the full joy of humankind; however, since Genesis 3 sin has colored even this covenantal relationship

Friends “look in the same direction” – in the Body and outside with unbelievers, understanding the dynamics of friendship will propel all we do forward and bring great glory to God

If we are leaders, we will counsel – understanding some basic boundaries and insights will help us be effective in spiritual direction and the “cure of souls”

Brokenness and Redemption: Scriptural Windows

Genesis Foundations

- Eden’s joy: mutual delight in the presence of God
- Eden’s tragedy: Love, holiness and unity destroyed
 - “The woman you gave me” – what happened to “bone of my bones”?
 - A cover-up – as if God would not see!
 - Consequences: alienation from environment, each other, oppression
- Cain and Abel – even brothers an hate each other
- Lamech’s – glorifying war
- Noah finds grace in a world gone mad – but even after the rescue we have perversion and punishment
- Abraham has a promise and forgets that it takes two to produce an heir!
- Female identity – all wrapped up in male heirs! We have come a long way from Eden!
- Joseph – consequences of a broken family system and favoritism

In the midst this God is working!

Pause – what does a leader need to navigate?

- Family dynamics
- Marital/new family health
- Comrades/Associates
- Adversaries
- Workers under authority
- Political and religious powers
- And – one’s own inner conflict – with God and Self

Exodus: Moses leads a nation – insights

- Family dynamics REALLY different – natural and adopted identities
- Marriage outside the clan
- Associates serve and rebel
- Adversaries – within the family
- Workers – delegation
- Political and religious powers – relying on the power of God
- Inner conflict – battling inferiority and anger with God and Self

The key = humility (Numbers 12:3) before a holy God

Joshua: The challenge of succession and transformation

- The difficulties of following a founder – establishing authority while respecting the past
- The utter necessity of dependence upon and inquiring of the Lord
- God has no grandchildren

David – prophet, priest and king – and unable to reign in his own family

- Battling with betrayal, delay and life-threatening situations
- Battling with anointing and success
- Creating paradigms for the future
- The issues of the heart – the great troubadour of God’s people

The Prophets – a lonely road exacerbated by their own tragedies and triumphs

- Isaiah – the loftiest language in the Hebrew Scriptures; the most comprehensive theology; the profoundest visions of Christ and the Kingdom...dies a martyr’s death
- Jeremiah – at war with everyone, including himself – how do you live as you watch the inevitable demise of the land you love?
- Ezekiel – faithfulness in tragedy – pronouncing judgment and giving hope
- Daniel – favor through the fire
- Amos – out of the comfort zone
- Hosea – a call to hesed – to fidelity
- Micah 6:8 – the simplest summary
 - Do justice – cf. Psalm 15, 24 – it is costly
 - Love mercy – forgiveness flows
 - Walk humbly – God made us and we are his, not the other way around!

Jesus – THE model of balanced living

- Family – loving and loyal, yet objective and separate
- Marriage – his has to wait until the Day of the Lord
- Associates/Comrades: different circles of intimacy, influence and expectation
- Enemies: Awareness, exposure of the truth, forgiveness and judgment
- Workers – commissioned harvesters
- Political and religious powers – they only have permitted authority
- Inner life with the Father and the Holy Spirit– mutual joy and love

The Apostle Paul: from self-righteous separatist to missionary, pastor and lover of the Body!

- “Loss of all things” – did that include a family
- Stripped of his resume – then used every piece of it
- Utterly reliant on Christ – and joyful about the friendships and partnerships
- Relationships with Jerusalem, fellow-workers and those he mentors
- Notice the passions in the Corinthian Correspondence
- Pastorals – preparing the Church for the future

Let's survey the types of relationships again

With ourselves: Determination to grow and be liberated through repentance

With our spouse/family – recognition of family systems and the issues to work on

With friends – need for healthy friendship that is not positional

With colleagues – ending competition and learning to resource one another

With comrades, staff – mutuality with clear functional structure – avoids this BIG mistake

With our opponents and or the “outsider”– living in the opposite spirit

With the powers – charismatic vs. institutional submission

The Relationships of the Leader: Confronting Personal Challenges

There is a reason for the classic monastic vows: Money, Sex and Power are always present and they impact all our relationships

The Evangelical equivalents to

Poverty = simplicity

Chastity = Celibacy if single; fidelity if married

Obedience = Power in check through accountability and submission

As we look at the perils and promises of leadership, mastering the relationships with these three “powers” becomes a vital part of a fruitful life in the service of the Kingdom of God.

Initial issues

- Money
 - Poverty vs. Prosperity
 - Provision and Vision
 - Using and Utilizing (people and resources)
 - Professional vs. volunteer relationships and structures
 - Planning and Faith
 - Humility and “Worth”
 - Personal and structural evils and transformations
 - Addictive pathologies – greed and gambling – obvious and subtle manifestations
- Sex
 - Moral conduct in all relationships
 - Gender identity: nature and nurture
 - Marital expectations
 - Fidelity in thought
 - Addictions – the power of image
 - Public image
 - The way forward
- Power
 - Sovereignty and servanthood
 - The Genesis 3 effects
 - “Control” and Passive-Aggressive behavior
 - Ambition – two pathways
 - The Philippians 2 pathway
 - Necessary oversight and structures
 - The four types of accountability for leaders

Another Matrix for Transformation: How do we envision discipleship? The “D-5” Perspective

Discipline

Desire

Delight in the Trinity

Decision(s)

Determination

The FLQ and Discipleship:

Loving God: Priority One

Loving Self: Confidence

The Holy Trinity
Christ in Us

Loving Our Purpose:
Transformed Habits

Loving Others:
Excellent Relationships

Time to go deeper into the mentalities/strongholds that we must overcome

The greatest issue is dichotomization of life, where we separate

- Head and heart
- Sacred and secular
- Business and ministry
- Practical and spiritual
- Knowledge and wisdom
- Academic/theoretical vs. Application
- Clergy and laity
- Body and spirit
- Public vs. private

And in the realm of ethics – when we have different sets of rules for different spheres of life!

There is one “gap” that is importance = the transcendence of the Almighty and his creation – and in the Incarnation this gulf has been bridged – the dimensional and metaphysical space has been transformed with the coming of Jesus.

Toward a disciplined life: key first steps

- Discipline as the imperative that flows from the indicative of grace (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:1ff; Colossians 3:1ff)
- The Decision to strip ourselves of the old habits, mindsets and sins and joyfully embrace new patterns of thinking, feeling and acting (Ephesians 4:22-24)
- The Delight is found in the Visio Dei – the metamorphosis of New Covenant beholding of Christ (II Corinthians 3:17-18)

Money and Relationships

- Our internal passions about money
- Our social relationships – how much does someone’s financial status affect our perspective?
- How much is enough and how do we become content?
- Leadership in the church – is money the key indicator of worth?
- Vision and provision – attracting resources and ethically releasing them
- Personal responsibility and structural inequity – thoughts on economics

Sex

- Gender identity – creation and fall
 - The Divine order- reflection of the Trinity in the union of male and female
 - Human identity transcends gender, yet our human lives are lived as men or women
 - The impact of the fall – “seeing” different ways
- The transforming initiatives of Jesus regarding sex
 - Expose of the heart – if we value the covenant and the worth of the other person, there will be different habits!
 - Reaffirmation of The Genesis 1-2 covenant
 - Repositioning Divine permission for divorce
- The “new” epidemic of addiction
 - All three centers of brain stimulation
 - The sewer pipe into the home and office
 - The real deception
- Marital expectations – Biblical or cultural?
 - Surfeit of information; deficit of contentment
 - Faith, focus and follow-through = love languages understood
- Redemption – how do we see deliverance?
- Public image and influence – the vicarious nature of communities and crowds

Power – by far the most challenging, because it is often the subtlest

- The impact of the fall
- The Divine reversal – Philippians 2 and the Kingdom paradox of power
- The difference between authority and power
- The inverse issue of rights and responsibilities
- Positioning – righteous and unrighteous
- Manifestations of dysfunction

The Four Points of Accountability for all spiritual leaders

To the local church leadership – mutuality

To the denomination/movement

To the city/neighborhood

To the larger Body – and perhaps a broader network

Remember the issue of charismatic and institutional submission

Toward a new holiness rooted in grace and love

- Identity – WHO we belong to; WHO we are in Christ
- Integrity – keeping our vows even when it hurts
- Insight – self-denial vs. self-destruction
- Influence and Impact – think about the reverberations of our choices
 - “Blender” family structures
 - Luke 12 and the use of money
 - Restricting or releasing?

Final challenges

- Intelligent submission is very hard – but necessary
- Frugality and generosity – lavish and sacrificial can work together
- Purity and joy – the freedom to say “brother” and “sister”

Marriage and Family for the Leader

Introduction: Whether married or single, leaders need to understand the dynamics of marriage and family life. Consider:

- About half of all the people coming into our churches have been touched by divorce/blended family issues
- Most of the singles in our churches are sexually active and lonely
- The very nature of family and marriage is under attack as redefinitions are now part of the public square
- Conservative Christian homes with God-honoring and faith-practicing parents DO have a better track record, but this % needs to increase
- The confusion over gender
- The covenant world of Biblical revelation vs. the contract world of society

Some historical realities about marriage and family

- Anthropology 101 – marriage IS a social contract – ensuring family, clan, village and class stability
- Most marriages throughout history have been arranged affairs – it was a bonus if the partner fell deeply in love
- Children have always been values, but the % of those dying in infancy and the \$\$ realities kept parents from full attachment at times.
- Women have always paid a higher price for the family
- God's adoption/election of his people in the OT/NT, Jewish Wisdom literature and Jesus' exemplary teaching are all exceptional compared to the cultures surrounding God's people
- Paul and Peter's teachings on marriage and family were – and are – revolutionary for liberating women and men for mutual life in Christ and the transformation of marriage roles

Some surprises – debunking religious myths

- Myth: “Tie goes to the husband” – the wife needs to submit when their are disagreements
- Truth: Husband and wife need to pray and get the mind of Christ promised to the humble (I Corinthians 2; Philippians 2; James 1, 3)
- Myth: Women are not made for certain roles of leadership
- Truth: Men and women are humans in the image of God with a job to do – and they do that job as a man or a woman
- Myth: We need to return to the “good old days” of the 1950s
- Truth: We do need more stable families, but 50 years of research and a careful study of Scripture reveals that every generation needs spiritual and structural renewal
- Myth: God is male
- Truth: God transcends our notions of gender; however, the masculine language emphasizes the Lord God's transcendence and authority in opposition to the fertility cults and pagan excesses of the nations around God. God is Father, not

Mother; however, God's love is reflected in both feminine and masculine traits - this is why Jesus, God Incarnate as a first century male, is so accessible to men and women!

Who is walking in to our fellowship circles?

- Over 25% are walking in with some baggage of emotional abuse
- At least one in four women have experience significant sexual abuse or harassment
- Nearly one-third of all men wrestle with sexual additions or at least more than a passing struggle with fidelity of mind and body
- Men in particular need mentors and exemplary relationships to find out what is means to be a godly man. Leaders must communicate in ways that draw men in instead of alienating them!
- Chances are, even the Christian families wrestle with getting time to pray and seek God outside of Church activities

Marriage and Family Issues unique to spiritual leaders

- The fishbowl, glass house – it all seems in public view!
 - This is a price to pay for public ministry – the whole point IS for people to see the leaders' lives and imitate their faith (Hebrews 13)
 - Leaders must guard some space for privacy and nourish their private lives – more about this below
- There is never enough time
 - Yes. Welcome to a life of choices and priorities. Since the Lord is sovereign over time, there must be time for all that involves fulfilling the will of God!
- My kids are struggling; therefore I can not be an effective leader
 - Every parsonage has occasional prodigal moments.
 - “Ruling his house well” means that we are doing all in our power to be an effective spouse and parent
 - There is a difference between the adult choices of our family members and a dysfunctional family system
- Expectations of family members
 - Godliness and participation are fine, but self-destructive involvement is another!
 - Yes – behavior IS highly scrutinized – that is a price we pay
- Spiritual warfare issues
 - Mindsets and strongholds that paralyze family members
 - Schemes to undermine effectiveness
 - How to pray and act
- Going deeper: intimacy and public service
 - “Always on” syndrome
 - Public/private “gap”
 - Fatigue
 - Unspoken fears and longings
- Anger and the life God desires

- Confronting reality and the redeeming work of grace

Important insights on Marriage from Chapman

- Love Languages – learning how to speak!
- The security of a covenant marriage – able to withstand external and internal challenges with commitment and forgiveness
- Love means that we are always willing to grow! Levels of communication – it is challenging to get past the factual to the fruitful!
- Dove, Hawk, Owl and Ostrich – obvious and subtle issues
- The connections between self-knowledge and interpersonal intimacy
- Praying, playing and partnering – keeping our eyes on the things that matter!
- Differences that strengthen our bonds – and our impact for the Lord
 - Rhythms, Temperament, Habits
- Moving toward intimacy – emotional, intellectual and sexual

Family Planning

- Purpose
- Vision
- Mission
- Values
- Strategic Goals
- Immediate Objective
- Resources needed
- Decisions to make

Family progress

- Proactive instead of reactive
- Abundance over scarcity
- Simplicity over aggrandizement
- Focus over distraction
- Honest with Self and others; no need to hide
- Relationships outside the family are vital
- No secrets – except presents!

Relationships outside the marriage that strengthen the marriage

- Mutual friends, mentors and colleagues
- Individual friends, mentors and colleagues
- Understanding distinct needs
- Counsel is not a threat

The leader' marriage and family and the impact on the community

Understanding Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships

Let's get clarity on categories!

- Marriage and Children
- Parents and extended family
- Friendship – different levels
- Spiritual leaders and mentors
- Professional colleagues
- Business relations – accountant, lawyer, etc.
- Casual friends and connections
- “Networks”
- Admired from a distance – books and other media – people we admire and learn from
- Other possibilities

Yes, the lines can – and should blur!

The frustration – when we put much more into a relationship than others return

Remember the Loves

Agape – how is this actually practiced?

Storge – classical understanding

Phileo – looking in the same direction

Eros – limits and liberation

The Biblical Love-Choices

God's own Love: Trinity Life

God's Act of Creation

God's Search for Adam – from Eden to this moment

God's covenants – with all humankind

God's covenant with the elect

God's reconciling actions

God's consuming love – holiness and celebration

Focusing further: Friendship like Jesus

General attitudes and specific actions

Jesus' relational priorities

Jesus' exemplary connecting and confronting

Jesus created space different ways

Jesus' loyal-love

Jesus inner life – a glimpse of his emotional health

Jesus' identity and people's responses

Insights from McGinnis

No one has to be alone

Assign top priority to your friendships

Cultivate transparency – some wisdom about the different types!

Speak about our affections

Learn the gestures of love – from the inside out

Space will make you closer

Touch matters

Praise lavishly – this is NOT flattery!

Take time to talk

Become an active listener

Share feelings freely and wisely

Anger can build emotional health

Forgiveness

Loyalty without self-destructive subservience

Changing relationships

The crying need of our culture = authentic relationships in which value is not determined by productivity!

Let's get real – how do we do all this and maintain our schedules?

Some ways forward: Dr Charlie's prescription for sanity:

The Boundaries of Godly Counsel Understanding the “Cure of Souls”

Faith, Frustration and the “Big Picture”

Are people more “messed up” today or does the explosion of knowledge simply expose the problems all humankind faces at all times?

In the 20th century, we see two great “sea changes” – the roots of which stem from the Continental Enlightenment:

Anthropology displaces Theology

Psychology displaces Sanctification

A little Historical Overview on Psychology

Part of being human is self-awareness and self-reflection

Socrates: “The unexamined life is not worth living” – Do the Greeks “invent” this art?

Buddhism and the human-centered awareness

The Hebrew tradition: the Fear of the Lord in the beginning of knowledge and wisdom

The battle between the Epicureans and Stoics – what is our place in the cosmos

Christian reflections on the human condition

In the Early Church

Hellenization

The Medieval synthesis

Reformation and Renaissance – *simul justus et peccator*

The Cartesian Revolution – cogito ergo sum

The Three Enlightenments

The Secular Revolution – Darwin and successors

Freud and the birth of modern psychology

Some of the Foci of this old/new discipline

The explosion of counseling since the 1950s – other related cultural and social phenomena

Menniger's prophetic words in 1966

Christian counseling – the key debates

Back to the Future: Christian Leadership and the Cure of Souls

Insights from Strategic Pastoral Counseling

Strategic: well focused, impacting and limited

Pastoral – Christ is the center and spiritual growth is always the aim

Counseling – Offering empathy, insight and process to see people healed and moving toward wholeness

Key Stages

Encounter

Engagement

Disengagement

The context for Counsel: Faith, friendship, and focus

A seat at some “Tables”

Page 31: The uniqueness of pastoral counseling = relationship and substance

Page 41: The advantages of pastoral counseling = Trinity-life impacting all of life

Pages 48-49: Characteristics and principles = brevity, focus, measurability

HOMEWORK = accountability and exponential progress

Page 74: Stages = beyond dependency (watch out for the ego-gratifying part of being needed!)

Page 82: Dimensions of diagnosis = Awareness + grace + responsibility = growth

Further reflections: mistakes to avoid

Co-dependency

Vicarious replacement

Emotional manipulation

Ethical lapses

Identity and “success”

Going Deeper: creating a healing, healthy and holy community

Trinity Life

Self-donating mindset

Mutual appreciation

Culturally contextual – richly textured

Envisioned and empowered

Being over Doing

The “spiritual” and the “practical” or properly connected.