

Seeking and Finding Wise Counsel

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Like most Christians, prayer is probably an important part of your Christian life. Maybe your prayers come throughout the day—in short conversations with Christ. Or, perhaps you make time to sit quietly for a longer time and speak with Him. Either way, have you ever considered these prayers as conversations between you and God?

Do you ever seek God's advice or wisdom as part of your prayers? For example, when you act or speak inappropriately during the day or you recognize sin at work in your heart (the realities of your life), do you turn to God through His Word (the riches of Christ), seeking counsel about your attitude and behavior? If you answered "yes," then you have participated in biblical counseling.

Just as prayer needs to be part of our Christian lives, so, too, should biblical counseling—seeking and receiving God's counsel. In its simplest form, biblical counseling is turning to God (the Wonderful Counselor) and using the Bible (His wonderful counsel) to change and direct our lives. God offers His biblical counseling to each of us. We can apply it to the smallest things that occur each day (e.g., a harsh word to a loved one, a misuse of God's resources) as well as the more difficult sins in our lives (e.g., pride, self-pity, prolonged anger). As in any counseling, we, the counselee, must first seek the wisdom of the Counselor, God. But unlike other counseling, our Counselor is always available, has unlimited resources for us, and rather than charging huge fees offers huge rewards when we accept His help.

Understanding these basic concepts about biblical counseling is important as we work together as a congregation to broaden the counseling ministry in Christ Community Church in the year ahead. Biblical counseling isn't simply something that some people are called to do. It is what we all do everyday as our relationship with Christ grows. As we participate in this type of biblical counseling, each of us is playing a very important role in helping the church achieve its mission "to glorify God by connecting the riches of Christ to the realities of life" (cf. Ephesians 4:11-16).

If you'd like to learn more about seeking and finding God's counsel in your life, please speak with Greg Norfleet, one of the other elders, or one of the members of the counseling ministry team.