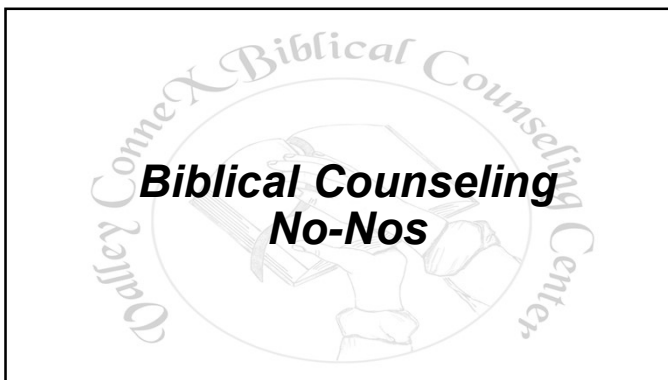


1



2

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Break confidence inappropriately.
- Considerations:
 - Confidentiality means not sharing any part or aspect of the counseling setting with anyone else with these exceptions:
 - With an approved counseling supervisor in a formal debriefing setting. (This should be shared upfront with the counselee.)

3

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Break confidence inappropriately.
 - Considerations:
 - Confidentiality means not sharing any part or aspect of the counseling setting with anyone else with these exceptions:
 - It should be shared in your initial meeting with the counselee that you will break a confidence if you become aware of his or her intention to harm himself/herself or someone else.

4

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Let the counselee control the sessions.
 - Correctives:
 - Make sure to adequately listen until you know their heart.
 - Discern when to begin to bring in biblical instruction.
 - As the sessions progress you may plan what biblical instruction to bring to bear on their situation but be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

5

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Move from appropriately presenting and applying biblical truth to therapy.
 - Corrective:
 - Avoid the temptation to meet resistance to the Word of God with alternative ways to handle their situation.
 - Stand firm on the authority and sufficiency of Scripture.

6

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Give medical advice.
 - Considerations:
 - Unless you have a valid medical degree, you are not qualified to practice medicine.
 - There are times when we may want to suggest that a person see a doctor.
 - If a person brings up concerns or questions about their use of psychotropic medications refer them back to the doctor who prescribed them.

7

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Primarily counsel from your own experience.
 - Considerations:
 - God will often give you an assignment that connects with situations you have encountered.
 - This can be a positive in helping you relate to the counselee.

8

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Primarily counsel from your own experience.
 - Considerations:
 - This can be a challenge, especially if we have not thoroughly dealt with these things biblically.
 - Even when you can make that special connection with a person you need to recognize that they are not you and what they need is God's remedy, not your experience.

9

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- *Take a person's rejection of God's Word personally.*
 - *Considerations:*
 - *We must be diligent in seeking to share appropriately and accurately from God's Word as we are led by the Holy Spirit.*
 - *Understand that there will be times when people do not receive the Word of God.*
 - *Trust in God to continue His work in their lives and practice patience and prayer.*

10

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- *Fail to recognize what God is doing in your heart through the counseling sessions.*
 - *Considerations:*
 - *Although the focus needs to be on the counselee to whom we are ministering, we must always realize that God can and will powerfully confront us in the counseling sessions.*
 - *We are better counselors when we realize that we are on this journey together rather than in some sort of aloof position.*

11

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- *Fail to take responsibility when you do err in your counseling.*
 - *Considerations:*
 - *We must deal with these times as instructed by the Word of God.*
 - *There are times when an apology should be shared with the counselee.*

12

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Act inappropriately toward the counselee.
 - Correctives:
 - A standard practice in biblical counseling is gender specific counseling.
 - On the rare occasion where there may be interaction between men and women appropriate practices must be maintained to keep from any appearance of evil.

13

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Act inappropriately toward the counselee.
 - Correctives:
 - “And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37-39, ESV)

14

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Be manipulated by the counselee.
 - Correctives:
 - If a counselee is in the legal system, seek counsel before intervening in any way on their behalf.

15

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- *Be manipulated by the counselee.*
 - *Correctives:*
 - *If the counselee seeks help with finances, avoid giving direct aid even if it is justified.*
 - *If the need is justified, bring the need to a small group or your church as an opportunity for ministry. It would be appropriate for you to anonymously donate to the group effort.*

16

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- *Be manipulated by the counselee.*
 - *Correctives:*
 - *If the counselee seeks help with finances, avoid giving direct aid even if it is justified.*
 - *If the need is not justified, i.e. not moving the person toward restoration, see this as a teachable moment in counseling to help him or her recognize personal responsibility and God's provision.*

17

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- *Fail to give careful attention to your spiritual health and growth.*
 - *Considerations:*
 - *This is God's work not our own.*
 - *Walking with God in such a way that we are sensitive to the prompting of His Spirit is indispensable.*
 - *Understand the impact of dealing regularly with some of the hardest issues of life.*

18

Biblical Counseling No-Nos

- Offer relief rather than remedy.
 - Considerations:
 - Be discerning on when to provide comfort and relief in such a way that it does not hinder remedy.
 - Do not be too quick to try to relieve a person of their sorrow.
 - Realize that people who have been treated badly are not entitled to behave badly.

19

A positive note

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, ESV)

20