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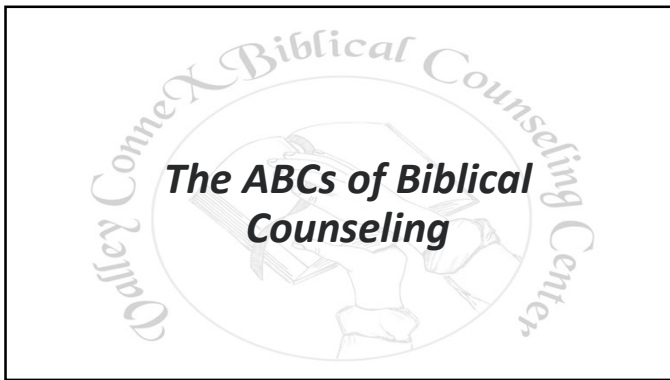
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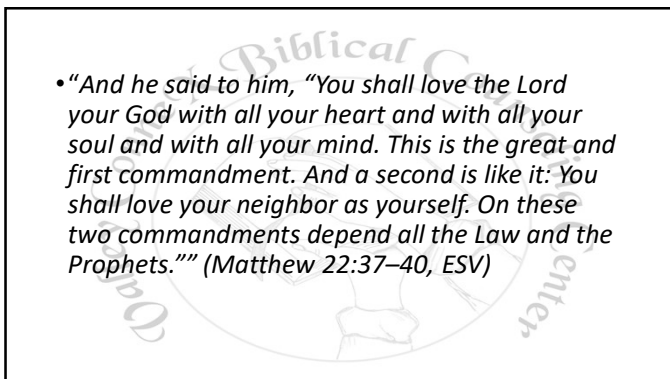
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•“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”” (Matthew 22:37–40, ESV)

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The very first basic of Biblical counseling is your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him.

- *“You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.” (Deuteronomy 11:1, ESV)*
- *“Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Joshua 22:5, ESV)*

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The very first basic of Biblical counseling is your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him. (Yielding my mind to God’s mind)

- *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8–9, ESV)*

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The very first basic of Biblical counseling is your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him. (Yielding my mind to God’s mind)

- *“Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?” (1 Corinthians 1:20, ESV)*
- *“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1 Corinthians 1:25, ESV)*

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The very first basic of Biblical counseling is your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him. (Commitment to God's Word)

- *"Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97, ESV)*
- *"Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold." (Psalm 119:127, ESV)*
- *"I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law." (Psalm 119:163, ESV)*
- *"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17, ESV)*

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7

The very first basic of Biblical counseling is your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him. (Sensitivity to God's Spirit)

- *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27, ESV)*
- *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:12-14, ESV)*

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8

The very first basic of Biblical counseling is your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him. (Pleasing God first and foremost)

- *"not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man," (Ephesians 6:6-7, ESV)*
- *Protects from offering relief at the expense of remedy*
- *Balances the natural care and concern we must have for the counselee with the presentation and application of God's Word*

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9

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *The foundations of how God brings a person into all He has created him or her to be.*
  - *Instruction*
  - *Rebuke*
  - *Consequences*
- *King Manasseh, a case study. 2 Kings 21:1-1-18; 2 Chronicles 33:1-20*

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10

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *The foundations of how God brings a person into all He has created him or her to be.*
  - *The activity of the Biblical counselor in this process.*
    - *Instruction from the Word of God*
    - *Instruction leading to faith in Christ*
    - *Instruction on how the Word of God applies to the counselee's specific situation (Keep in mind the purpose is not immediate relief but lasting remedy.)*

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11

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *The foundations of how God brings a person into all He has created him or her to be.*
  - *The activity of the Biblical counselor in this process.*
    - *Instruction from the Word of God*
    - *Instruction arising from expressed thinking or behavior that is contrary to the Word of God*

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12

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *The foundations of how God brings a person into all He has created him or her to be.*
- *The activity of the Biblical counselor in this process.*
  - *Reproof from the Word of God*
  - *Lead the counselee to the powerful and penetrating Word of God to expose the presence and practice of sin. (Hebrews 4:12-13)*

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13

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *The foundations of how God brings a person into all He has created him or her to be.*
- *The activity of the Biblical counselor in this process.*
  - *Correction from the Word of God*
    - *Use the Word of God to show the counselee God's remedy for sin.*
    - *The finished and complete work of Christ*
    - *Confession leading to repentance*
    - *Restitution when possible and appropriate*
    - *Restoration*

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14

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *The foundations of how God brings a person into all He has created him or her to be.*
- *The activity of the Biblical counselor in this process.*
  - *Warning from the Word of God*
    - *It is exclusively the work of God to bring consequences in the case of persistent rebellion.*
    - *It is the place of the counselor to use the Word of God to point out the inevitability of these consequences when rebellion persists.*

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15

Flowing out of your commitment to God and your practice of living in obedience to Him you will engage people appropriately.

- *Loving your counselee, your neighbor, as yourself leads us to engage them as the Bible instructions us about how to put that into practice.*
  - *“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” (Colossians 3:12–14, ESV)*

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16

The Bottom Line: Keeping these two commandments will bring us to the appropriate balance of honoring God and effectively engaging the people with whom we counsel.

- *“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. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”” (Matthew 22:37–40, ESV)*

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