

d. Confidentiality?

Core Seminar  
Week 4 – Dec, 2013

## Congregational Counseling

### In Conclusion—

- We have seen how biblical counseling is a fundamental responsibility of Christians. Fellow members in a local congregation are called upon to disciple and counseling one another with God's Word.
- We don't take this responsibility lightly, but want to take seriously the opportunity to provide godly counsel for others. As we continue to take advantage of opportunities, we will grow in our understanding and skill in asking good questions and ministering/applying Scripture to one another.
- We want to turn to our pastors at the appropriate time for help, but we want to stay involved and not pass the problem off to elders.

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*Next Week: Love Part 1 (Week 5)*

Reading in Tripp's *Instruments*: Ch 7

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### False Assumptions about Professional Help

- a. A common false assumption that Christians make about professional help.
- b. Story about young lady who was struggling.
- c. The congregation has a responsibility to disciple and care for one another with God's Word.
- d. The "one another" passages -- John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10; 13:18; 15:7, 14; Ephesians 4:2, 32; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- e. The church should be the normative place for Christian relationships and Christian discipleship/counseling.

- f. The church covenant articulates our commitment to one another.
- g. A culture of discipleship.
- h. You are on the front lines!

### **I Can't Do This! I'm Not Equipped, Skilled or Ready!**

- a. Typical Response: "I can't do this. I don't know what to do. I don't know how to help. I have no skills in this area."
  - b. Example: marital conflict.
  - c. Turning to Scripture.
- Where is your focus? James 4:1-2.
- d. Lacking confidence?

### **When Do We Seek Out Others?**

- a. What I am NOT saying is:

- that you have to sort through other people's problems *on your own*;
- that you, as a member, have to deal with this *without any help*;
- that the pastors don't really care about counseling the members;
- that the pastors expect you, the members, to fix others peoples problems.

- b. Elders want to help!

- c. When do you turn to a pastor in the midst of helping someone else with their problems?

- If you know the person's problem is significant and that no one (or really very few folks) knows about it, you can either encourage them to come speak with a pastor or get permission to talk with a pastor on their behalf.
- If you are feeling overwhelmed with the problem and don't know how to handle it.
- If you don't know where to go in Scripture or how to apply Scripture to this particular problem.
- If you scared that this person is going to do physical or spiritual harm to themselves or others and you feel you need help slowing them down.
- If you feel like someone is out of control with their sin.
- If you want guidance on how to help someone else.