



## Growing Biblical Counseling in a Local Church

### 1. Don't Get \_\_\_\_\_ All by Yourself!

- Pray and ask God to raise up other people who will go with you
- Do the big “Ask” – you’ve got to ask – you’ve got to make it personal (not just in the bulletin!)
- Make yourself a list throughout the year of people to ask
- Look for people who show giftedness and interest

### 2. Don't Keep What You're Doing a \_\_\_\_\_

Let others sit in with you to see what you're doing and how you're doing it.

**I Timothy 2:1-2** “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

### 3. Give Some Others a Loving \_\_\_\_\_!

Start calling people who have attended and ask them to counsel someone.

**Romans 15:14** “Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.”

**2 Cor. 3:4-6** “And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

- Meet together with them and the counselee the first session.
- Sort it out – lay out a ‘game plan’ – set the direction



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- Give them permission to call you as often as needed to run it all by you
- Be willing to step back in when needed to sort out a tough spot along the way

### 4. Start with Something \_\_\_\_\_

Consider training mentor couples to do all the pre-marital counseling using Wayne Mack's workbook "Preparing for Marriage God's Way"

Let them cut their teeth on something that's not so scary – these are couples that don't hate each other yet ☺

### 5. Bring it Right into the \_\_\_\_\_!

If you're the preaching / teaching pastor then start doing some topical sermon series using some of the material you're learning from ACBC and include some biblical counseling homework sheets in the bulletin along with the sermon notes

**Acts 20:27** "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God."

Use testimonies from people who've completed counseling already

### 6. Show Your Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ to Do It!

**Ephesians 4:11-12** "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Do "What Ifs" with your leadership team – deacons or elders or small group leaders

### 7. Talk it Up \_\_\_\_\_!



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**Acts 4:20** “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

(I know this verse is in reference to the Gospel – but the principle is still true - the same enthusiasm for the life changing power of God’s Word should exude from us at every opportunity)

- Start talking about ‘Changing and Growing’ at every opportunity – create a culture that just thinks that way
- Vision at Grace Fellowship first 15 yrs: ‘Training godly disciples who can handle life effectively by handling God’s Word accurately.’
- Feel free to use it or create something yourself, but get a phrase that summarizes a culture of changing and growing and mention it as often as possible

### 8. Equip and Expect Your \_\_\_\_\_ to Counsel – And You Lead The Way!

Example of Paul’s ministry to the church at Ephesus in **Acts 20:**

**v. 18-19** “... in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me...”

**v. 20** “... I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.”

**v. 28** “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God...”

**v. 31** “Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn (admonish) everyone night and day with tears.”

Show them the biblical basis for the call to counsel

Don’t play the ‘senior pastor’ trump card (‘I’m too busy to counsel’)

### 9. Put Your \_\_\_\_\_ Where Your Mouth Is!



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Ask your leaders for some money that you can use as scholarships to help key people attend biblical counseling training conferences

### 10. \_\_\_\_\_ to God to Raise Up a Counseling Ministry!

- Pray specifically, strategically, and relentlessly!
- Pray every week
- Ask others to pray specifically
- Fast and take some days of prayer

**Eph. 3:20** “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

**James 4:2** “... yet you do not have because you do not ask.”

### 11. Strike While the Iron is \_\_\_\_\_!

- Each year have a reunion meeting 6 weeks after any training or biblical counseling conference to talk about how they’ve been using the materials – share testimonies
- Give them copies of the tools, worksheets, etc. that you use the most in counseling
- Display good resources for them to use – some to purchase... some for free!

**Acts 14:21** “... they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue...”

**Acts 15:36** “Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us now go back and visit our brethren... where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.’”

- Challenge them to read one counseling book before the next conference
  - If they’ll read it before next year – it’s free!

“Competent to Counsel”

“Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hand”



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### “What to Do on Thursday”

- Give them set of note cards with some of the verses you use the most in counseling – so that they can start memorizing them

## 12. Take the Plunge – and Get ACBC Certified!

**1 Tim. 4:13ff** “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine... meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Study to show yourself approved unto God and workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Put 6 dates on the calendar at the beginning of the year – for a full day of study – to work on the exams, and guard them!

## 13. Take Advantage of Technology!

- Use the Faith Baptist Counseling (Lafayette, IN) DVDs for a training night

## 14. Plug it into Your Regular Teaching Times!

- Sunday School Hour
- Adult Bible Fellowships
- Small Groups

**Nehemiah 8:7,8,12** "The Levites... **instructed the people** in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the book of the Law of God, **making it clear** and giving the meaning **so that the people could understand** what was being read... Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because **they now understood** the words that had been made known to them."



**Ezra 7:10** “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordiACBCes in Israel.”

- Teach the ACBC exam questions in a SS class

### 15. Don’t Lose Heart and Never Give Up!

**Heb. 6:10** "God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."

- It’s not our ministry

**2 Cor. 4:1** “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man’s conscience in the sight of God.”

- Be ready and willing to spend yourself working hard!

**Col. 1:28-29** “Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

- It will not be convenient
- It will not be easy
- It will not be without resistance from Satan, outsiders, and well-meaning insider
- We plant seeds but God gives the increase