



COUNSELING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH I: Lay Counseling & Practical Ministry  
Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 PM

Professor: Stephen D. Cloud, DMin.

[scloud@briarwood.org](mailto:scloud@briarwood.org)

Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 PM

Briarwood Lay Counselor/Practical Ministry Training students do not register for academic credit or receive an academic grade. Birmingham Theological Seminary students complete and submit all assignments expected of Lay Counseling students (plus additional assignments noted in syllabus). You will receive an academic grade.

#### COURSE PURPOSE

The purpose of this course is to introduce the principles of Biblical counseling that will form a practical theological foundation for the process of developing a personal counseling ministry within a local church.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will better understand the theological and doctrinal foundations of Biblical Counseling.
2. The student will better understand the basic tenets of Modern Psychology and be able to differentiate a biblical approach to solving life problems from psychological approaches.
3. The student will observe (through case studies) real Biblical Counseling taking place.
4. The student will be able to articulate a basic biblical theology that provides the framework for the methodology of personal ministry and biblical counseling

Course texts:

**A Theology of Biblical Counseling** by Heath Lambert (Required for all; this will be our primary textbook)

**Union with Christ** by Rankin Willbourne (required for Seminary, optional for others)

**Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands** by Paul David Tripp (required for Seminary, optional for others)

Collateral texts —

***Why Biblical Counseling?*** An Appeal for Scriptural Sufficiency by Ab Abercrombie

***Counseling: How to Counsel Biblically*** by John MacArthur (and The Master's College Faculty)

***Scripture and Counseling: God's Word for Life in a Broken World*** by Kellemen & Forrey (editors)

***The Pastor and Counseling: The Basics of Shepherding Members in Need*** by Jeremy Pierre & Deepak Reju

***Counseling Under the Cross: How Martin Luther Applied the Gospel to Daily Life*** by Bob Kellemen

***Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love*** by Edward Welch

*The Biblical Counseling Movement after Adams* by Heath Lambert

*Biblical Counseling Basics: Roots, Beliefs, & Future* by Jeremy Lelek

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SEMINARY CREDIT

Read a minimum of 300 pages from the Collateral texts above. Submit a summary of **BOTH** the Required texts and your Collateral reading selections (1 -2 pages) on each of your reading selections.

**Reading summaries are due on November 18.**

Complete **4 questions** (below) for the mid-term (due **OCTOBER 21**) **and an additional 4 questions** (below) for final exam (due **DECEMBER 9**). Answers should be 1-1 1/2 pages in length for each question (typed 1.5 spacing, 12 pitch)

**View videos that are listed below**

Seminary Students are required to view (listening is fine) the following videos (these are recommended for all students)

Love and Respect by Emerson Edderichs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=388ZduTXiws> The

Dynamic Heart in Daily Life by Jeremy Pierre <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8YMhFFgV2o>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zs4mayaoDE> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XYysydowCQ>

Rosario Butterfield

<https://vimeo.com/143656103> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQPSEeE4UfE>

### Mid-term and Final Exam Questions (for Seminary students only)

1. Describe the inspiration, inerrancy, and authority of Scripture as well as the relationship of each one of these issues to one another.

2. Describe the sufficiency of Scripture. Relate the doctrine of the sufficiency of Scripture to the practice of biblical counseling. Research and respond to the arguments of at least one integrationist or Christian Psychologist regarding the insufficiency of Scripture for counseling.

3. Explain the doctrine of common grace relating the doctrine to the ability of secular psychologists to understand true information about the human condition.

4. Explain the doctrine of the noetic effects of sin relating the doctrine to the ability of secular psychologists to understand true information about the human condition.

5. Explain each of the following attributes of God describing the practical implications of each attribute for life and counseling: wrath, mercy, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

6. Describe the dual natures of Jesus Christ and explain why this reality is crucial for salvation.

7. Provide a biblical description of the dichotomist view of mankind. Explain the counseling implications of this doctrine with regard to the inner and outer man.

8. Describe the role of repentance in beginning and continuing in the Christian life.

Explain the importance of the doctrine of repentance for biblical counseling.

9. Provide an explanation of and the biblical basis for the doctrine of substitutionary atonement, explaining the implications of this doctrine for human guilt over sin. Relate your understanding of this to the concept of false guilt.

10. Describe the doctrine of Union with Christ explaining its biblical basis and implications for Christian living.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**NO CLASS** ON OCTOBER 14 & NOVEMBER 25

**MID-TERM ASSIGNMENT DUE** OCTOBER 21

**FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE** DECEMBER 9

**LAST CLASS** DECEMBER 9

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

SEPTEMBER 9

What is Biblical Counseling? Biblical Counseling and Scripture. Lambert, pages 11-64; 304-319

SEPTEMBER 16

Biblical counseling and Scripture (continued); Biblical Counseling and Common Grace. Lambert 65-101; 326-329

SEPTEMBER 23

Biblical Counseling and Theology. Lambert 102-135

SEPTEMBER 30

Biblical Counseling and Christology; Union with Christ. Lambert 136-157; Wilbourne 27-94

OCTOBER 7

Union with Christ (continued); Biblical Counseling and the Holy Spirit. Lambert 158-179; Wilbourne 133-210

OCTOBER 14 **FALL BREAK NO CLASS**

OCTOBER 21. **(Mid-term assignments are due)**

Counseling and the Theology of Humanity Lambert 180-213

OCTOBER 28

Biblical Counseling and Salvation; Biblical Counseling and the Psychological Lay of the Land; Mental Disorders, Medicine, and Counseling. Lambert 274-303; 321-325

NOVEMBER 4

Biblical Counseling and Sin; Biblical Counseling and Suffering. Lambert 214-273

NOVEMBER 11

The Heart of the Matter; Speaking the Truth in Love. Tripp 37-94; 199-238; Kelleman 262-277

NOVEMBER 18

Biblical Counseling and the Church; Listen and Learn: Data Gathering; Lambert 304-319; MacAurthur 131-161; 265-268

NOVEMBER 25 (**NO CLASS**)

DECEMBER 2

How to Grow and Change; The Doctrine of Progressive Sanctification Lelek 153-164

DECEMBER 9 (**LAST CLASS; FINAL ASSIGNMENTS DUE**)

Case Studies