

Biblical Counseling
Level IV:
Theology Of Counseling

Biblical Counseling Level IV: Theology Of Counseling

- Good Theology = Good Advice
- Bad Theology = Bad Advice
- God's way is better than man's way
- Bibliology and Pneumatology most important
- You don't have to agree with everything
- You don't have remember everything
- Answer exam questions based on your beliefs.

Biblical Counseling Level IV: Theology Of Counseling

Characteristics of Good Theology

- Has the Bible as its sole source
- Is free from contradiction- any doctrine within the theological framework should not conflict with or contradict another doctrine
- Is free from legalism
- Is free from libertinism

Bibliology

The Doctrine of the Scriptures

- I. Revelation
- II. Inscripturation
- III. Canonization
- IV. Preservation
- V. Translation
- VI. Interpretation
- VII. Inerrancy/Infallibility
- VIII. Sufficiency
- IX. Authority

Revelation

I. General Revelation

A. Creation

B. Sufficient proof of God's existence

C. Insufficient for salvation

II. Special Revelation

A. Essential to human validation & salvation

B. Verbal (plenary) inspiration

C. The Scriptures

D. Revelation ended with the Apostolic era

Inscription

- I. God-breathed autographs
 - A. Languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek
 - B. OT written: 1500 BC to 400 BC
 - C. NT written: 45 AD to < 70 AD*
- II. No autographs (originals) survive, only copies

* Modern scholarship inaccurately assigns dates as late as 95 AD for the book of Revelation.

Canonization

- I. Canon of Scripture (66 books of the Bible)
 - A. Selection process guided by God
 - B. OT Canon settled by (300-200 BC)
 - C. NT Canon settled by ~ 367 AD
 - D. Canon is closed
- II. Apocrypha: added to RC Canon in late 1500s
- III. Pseudepigrapha: e.g., Book of Enoch
- IV. Gnostic Gospels: e.g., Book of Thomas

Preservation

I. Manuscripts & Codices

- A. Thousands of copies, mostly incomplete
- B. Textual Criticism- comparing the texts
- C. Incredible similarity

II. Old Testament

- A. Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls): 250 to 100 BC
- B. Masoretic Text: 500 to 1000 AD

III. New Testament

- A. Textus Receptus (Erasmus 1516)
- B. Westcott & Hort (late 1800s)
- C. Nestle/Aland (1950s to present day)

Translation

- I. Translations are not God-breathed
 - A. Affected by source manuscripts
- II. Septuagint (250 – 100 BC): OT translated into Greek
 - A. Used by Jews at the time of the 1st Advent
- III. Vulgate (383 -405 AD): Bible translated into Latin
 - A. RCC used it exclusively for centuries
- IV. Early English Translations
 - A. Wycliff: 1382
 - B. Geneva Bible (1500s)
 - C. KJV: 1611

Translation

- I. Types of translations and their usefulness
 - A. Literal Equivalent: e.g., KJV, NAS
 - B. Dynamic Equivalent: NIV
 - C. Paraphrase: NLB
- II. Hazards of translation
 - A. Theological presuppositions
 - B. Introduction of error
- III. Annotated Bibles-Study/Reference Bibles
 - A. Geneva Bible- first English translation with notes
 - B. Scofield Bible- first American “translation” with notes
 - 1. The Scofield notes spread dispensational error all over America
 - C. Niche Bibles-revenue
 - D. Politically correct Bibles

Interpretation

- I. Hermeneutics: method by which Scripture is interpreted
- II. Bad hermeneutics leads to misunderstanding
- III. Misunderstanding leads to bad counsel
- IV. Exegesis: what the text meant in its context of language, time, geography, politics, culture and audience
- V. A text has only one meaning, but may have multiple applications
- VI. Texts do not have “personal” meanings
- VII. New insight is NOT new revelation

Attributes of Scripture

- I. Clarity (Perspicuity): The message is simple
- II. Inerrant/Infallible: Errorless & true
 - A. Pertain to the autographs only
 - B. Biblical non-contradiction
 - C. Fulfillment of prophecy
 - D. Extra-biblical confirmation
 - 1. Archeological
 - 2. Historical
 - 3. Scientific

Attributes of Scripture

III. Authority

- A. God is its author
- B. Demonstrated by its power to change lives
- C. Grounded in its infallibility
- D. A regenerate heart recognizes its authority

IV. Sufficiency

- A. Contains all knowledge for life and Godliness
- B. Timelessness: speaks to every issue of life

Bibliology

In what ways is the Bible essential to Biblical Counseling?

It is absolute truth in a relative world.

It is the discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It is the source of all wisdom

It is God's instruction to man

Bibliology

SBABC THEOLOGICAL EXAM

Bibliology

1. The Bible is spoken of as “inspired.” What does this mean?
2. What is the relationship between infallibility and authority?
3. Many Christians today speak of continuing revelation. Relate this concept to inspiration and sufficiency of the Scripture.

Theology Proper

The Doctrine of God

- I. Attributes
- II. Sovereignty
- III. God's Will
- IV. Trinitarian
- V. Creator/Sustainer

Attributes

I. Incommunicable

A. Independence

B. Immutability

C. Eternality

D. Omnipresence

E. Imminent

F. Transcendent

Attributes

II. Communicable

A. Will/Freedom

B. Holiness/Spirituality

C. Truth/Righteousness/Faithfulness

D. Love/Mercy/Peace/Goodness

E. Knowledge/Wisdom

F. Jealousy/Wrath

God's Sovereignty

- I. Extends to all things, even to salvation
- II. Cannot conflict with His immutability
- III. Does not conflict with human free agency
- IV. Does not make Him the author or accomplice in sin
- V. Makes all of God's promises SECURE.
- VI. God says that He is sovereign, even to the most minute details

God's Will

I. God's Will

A. Will of Purpose (secret/decretive)

1. God's Unchangeable Decree
2. Foreordained all things
3. Process Theology

B. Will of Command (revealed will)

1. Found only in God's Word

Trinitarian

- I. Personhood
- II. Father- Eternal purpose
- III. Son- Creator/Redeemer
- IV. Holy Spirit- Regeneration/Sanctifier
- V. Three persons-one essence
- VI. Nicene Creed (381 AD)
- VII. Athanasian Creed (late 5th century)

Trinitarian

I. Trinitarian Errors

A. Modalism- one person in three forms

B. Arianism- Son and Spirit not fully God

C. Subordinationism- Son and Holy Spirit subordinate to the Father

Creator/Sustainer

- I. God has made all things for His Glory
- II. God sustains all things by His power
- III. Deism still prevalent in Christian thinking
- IV. Evolution is inconsistent with Scripture
- V. Evolution is scientifically unviable
- VI. New Age/Eastern Philosophies
- VII. Psychology grounded in Godlessness
- VIII. Self-seeking, Self-glorification

Theology Proper

The Doctrine of God

- I. How does our understanding of God affect biblical counseling?
 - A. We use His Word
 - B. We believe His Word
 - C. We know that He has the power to change people
 - D. We know that man's counsel is foolishness

Theology Proper

The Doctrine of God

SBABC THEOLOGICAL EXAM

Theology Proper

1. State briefly the Biblical basis for, and formulate the doctrine of, the Trinity.
2. List and develop five attributes of God and how they relate to the believer's life and counseling.

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

- I. Creation
- II. Fall of Angels
- III. Four States of Human Existence
- IV. Doctrine of Sin (Hamartology)
- V. The Law and Liberty

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

I. Creation

A. Creation versus Evolution

B. Old Earth versus Young Earth

C. Imago Dei

D. Humans, Fauna & Flora

E. Angels

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

II. Fall of Angels

A. Satan/Serpent

B. Demons and demon possession

C. Exorcism

D. Binding of Satan

E. Word of God best weapon against Satan

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

III. Four States of Human Existence

- A. Innocence- Adam and Eve pre-fall
- B. Fallen- all humanity
- C. Redeemed- all believers in Messiah/Christ
- D. Glorified- resurrection body, post-judgment
- E. Dichotomous versus Trichotomous

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

IV. Doctrine of Sin (Hamartology)

- A. Breach of God's law (disobedience)
- B. Original sin (inherited from Adam)
- C. Actual sin/habitual sin/sinning with impunity
- D. Effects of Sin
 1. Death
 2. Depravity
 3. Loss of fellowship with God
 4. Temporal and eternal consequences

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

IV. Doctrine of Sin (Hamartology)

A. Power of sin

1. slavery

2. unbreakable by human effort

B. The only solution to sin is...

REDEMPTION

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

IV. The Law (OT) and Liberty (NT)

A. The moral law (written on Adam's heart)

B. Mosaic law (10 commandments)

C. Levitical law (ceremonial)

D. Purpose of the law: a strict tutor

E. Power of the law: only to condemn

D. Legalism

1. Belief that keeping the law saves

2. Judgment versus discernment

E. Antinomianism- denial of the perpetual moral law

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

IV. The Law (OT) and Liberty (NT)

- A. NT liberty: freedom from the power of sin
- B. Liberty: no license to sin
- C. Regeneration revives ability not to sin
- D. Legality versus expediency
- E. Love is summation of the God's law.
- F. True love is only found in Christ.
- G. Outside of Christ, we are not fully human.

Anthropology

The Doctrine of Man

SBABC Theological Exam

Anthropology

1. Who is man?
2. What role does anthropology play in counseling theory and practice?

Christology

The Doctrine of Christ

- I. Nature of Christ (hypostaxis)
- II. Humiliation/Incarnation
- III. Resurrection/Exultation
- IV. Mediator
- V. Offices: Prophet, Priest, King
- VI. Kingdom of God/Heaven
- VII. Return of Christ

Christology

The Doctrine of Christ

I. Nature of Christ

- A. The Son made flesh (hypostatic union)
- B. Divine nature with human nature
- C. Impeccability
- D. Jesus is not eternal

II. Humiliation

- A. Incarnation
- B. Human existence
- B. Crucifixion

Christology

The Doctrine of Christ

III. Resurrection/Ascension/Exultation

IV. Mediatorial Offices

A. Prophet- The Word of Truth

B. Priest- to make reconciliation

1. Intercessor

2. Sacrifice

3. Advocate

C. King- to rule and reign with mercy and justice

Christology

The Doctrine of Christ

- V. Return of Christ
 - A. Parousia
 - B. Millennialism
 - 1. Figurative
 - 2. Literal
 - C. Predictions of His return
 - D. Readiness

Christology

The Doctrine of Christ

SBABC Theological Exam

Christology

1. Why did Christ die?
2. He was “tempted in all things as we are” (Heb. 4:15). Discuss and relate to counseling theory and practice.

Pneumatology

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

I. Personhood

A. Sin against Him

B. Plurality in the Godhead

C. He can be grieved

D. He can give comfort (paraclete)

E. Male gender

Pneumatology

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

II. Work of the Holy Spirit

A. Empowers: regeneration, spiritual gifts & fruit of the Spirit

B. Convicts of sin

C. Purifies: sanctification, spiritual baptism

D. Reveals: Scripture, prophecy, illumination

E. Teaches: discernment

Pneumatology

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

III. Spiritual Gifts

A. Gifts that have ceased

1. Prophecy
2. Tongues/Interpretation
3. Healing/Raising from the dead

B. Dangers of prophecy and tongues

1. Mysticism

Pneumatology

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

III. Spiritual Gifts

A. Continuing Gifts

1. Preaching/Teaching
2. Knowledge/Wisdom/Discernment
3. Faith/Assurance
4. Encouragement

Pneumatology

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

SBABC Theological Exam

Pneumatology

1. Who or what is the Holy Spirit?
2. What role does this Spirit play in the believer's life and the counseling process?

Soteriology

The Doctrine of Salvation

- I. Salvation: A work of the Trinity
 - A. Father: election, based in His
 1. foreknowledge (prescience)
 2. foreordination
 - B. Son: atonement/redemption
 1. General (universal)- all mankind
 2. Specific (particular/specific)- elect only
 - C. Holy Spirit: regeneration, calling, sanctifying

Soteriology

The Doctrine of Salvation

II. The Order of Events in Salvation (Ordo Salutis)

1. Election
2. Atonement/Redemption
3. Regeneration
4. Drawing/Hearing/Gospel
5. Repentance/Faith
6. Perseverance
7. Resurrection
8. Glorification

Soteriology

The Doctrine of Salvation

- I. Doctrine of Justification
 - A. Definition: to be declared righteous by God on the basis of faith in imputed righteousness
 - B. Sources of righteousness
 1. Jesus Christ
 2. Good works of others
 3. Personal good works
- II. Justification is **by faith in Christ, alone, not of works**
- III. Justification is a one time event at the point of faith

Soteriology

The Doctrine of Salvation

II. Soteriological Systems

A. Arminianism

B. Calvinism

C. Hyper-Calvinism

D. Catholicism

Soteriological Systems

Arminianism/Semi-Arminianism

- I. Man has natural ability to turn to God.
- II. Election is based in God's foreknowledge.
- III. Christ's atonement is universal.
- IV. The Holy Spirit regenerates those who are willing to receive Christ's atoning work.
- V. Salvation can be lost through unbelief.
- VI. Semi-Arminianism denies that salvation can be lost.

Soteriological Systems

Calvinism/Hyper-Calvinism

- I. The fall destroyed man's ability to turn to God.
- II. Election is based in God's foreordination.
- III. Christ's atonement is specific to the elect only.
- IV. The Holy Spirit regenerates the elect and then they are by nature willing to repent and believe.
- V. Once obtained, salvation can never be lost.
- VI. Hyper-Calvinism denies that all men are responsible to repent and believe. Election is enough, repentance and faith unnecessary.

Soteriology

The Doctrine of Salvation

SBABC Theological Exam

Soteriology

1. “Justification by faith alone.” Discuss the meaning of this phrase.
2. Sanctification is said to be past, present, and future. Discuss, including the idea of “union with Christ.”
3. Do Christians persevere? What relationship does this have to counseling?

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

- I. Ecclesia: the called out ones, assembly
- II. The Church: Universal, Invisible, Visible
- III. Defined by covenant interpretation
 - A. Covenant Theology
 - B. New Covenant Theology
 - C. Dispensationalism

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

- I. Covenant Theology
 - A. Reformation (Zwingli)
 - B. Covenant of works (Adam)-failed
 - C. Covenant of redemption in two administrations (Old and New)
 - D. Children of believers automatically included
 - E. Infant Baptism
 - F. Centralized church government
 - G. Govt. based in mainly OT principles

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

- II. New Covenant Theology
 - A. New Testament model
 - B. Anabaptist movement
 - C. Discontinuity between OC and NC- OC ends
 - D. Church is believers only
 - E. Believer baptism by immersion
 - F. Local church autonomy

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

III. Dispensationalism

A. J. N. Darby & C. I. Scofield (19th century)

B. History divided into 7 dispensations

C. Jews rejected Messiah, Kingdom postponed

D. Presently in “Church Age” (NC)

E. OC (Israel) and NC (church) run parallel

F. End times: Pre-trib rapture, pre-mil return

G. Antinomianism

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

IV. The Purpose of the Church

- A. Glorify God
- B. Worship
- C. Fellowship
- D. Discipleship
- E. Exercise Spiritual Gifts
- F. Evangelism

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

V. Church Discipline

- A. Formative-Membership
- B. Corrective/Restorative
- C. Excommunicative
- D. Biblical counseling- admonishing
one another in love

Ecclesiology

The Doctrine of the Church

VI. Biblical Church Offices

A. Ceased Offices

1. Prophet
2. Apostle

B. Continuing Offices

1. Pastor, Elder (Bishop)
2. Deacon
3. Teacher
4. Evangelist/Missionary

Eschatology

Doctrine of the End Times

I. Millennialism

A. Amillennialism

B. Postmillennialism

II. Premillennialism

A. Historic/Classical

B. Dispensationalism

C. Ultra-Dispensationalism

Eschatology

Doctrine of the End Times

- I. Relates to counseling-
 - A. View of Christ's return
 - B. Lack of peace
 - C. Possibility of second chance
 - D. Satan bound or free
 - E. Strength of demonic activity