Counseling is Discipleship

"Addressing the Gospel Gap"

"Restore Christ to Counseling and Counseling to the Church"

Goals

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be _____ to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers." God's goal for us is "to take off our old self with its practices **10**and put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator."

"The Gospel Gap"

"It is a 'then-now-then' gospel. First, there is the 'then' of the _____. When I embrace Christ by faith, my sins are completely forgiven, and I stand before God as righteous. There is also the 'then' of the _____, the promise of eternity with the Lord, free of sin and struggle. The church has done fairly well explaining these two 'thens' of the gospel, but it has tended to understate or misunderstand the '_____' benefits of the work of Christ. What difference does the gospel make in the here and now? How does it help me as a father, a husband, a worker, and a member of the body of Christ? How does it help me respond to difficulty and make decisions? How does it give me meaning, purpose, and identity? How does it motivate my ministry to others?"

_____ Theology = _____ Theology

2 Peter 1:3-9

"3His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. 5For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins."

The 4 Areas of Blindness

1. We fail to see that our _____ exist within us (meaning sin and evil desires), not outside of us.
2. People will live out of some other _____ if Christ does not shape the way they think about themselves and the things they face.
3. People find it much easier to embrace the gospel's promise of life after death than they do its promise of _____.
4. We forget that making us _____ is God's unwavering agenda.

"We are not playing an intellectual game: God's glory and human lives are at stake."

Statements:

- You are a counselor/discipler, whether or not you think of yourself as one.
- You are a counselee/disciple, whether or not you think of yourself as one.
- 99.9% of life-influencing counseling/discipleship does not take place in the professional counselor's office.
- Counseling/discipleship takes place in everyday life: every day, in every life. In fact, everyday life is counseling/discipleship.
- Your words ("lips, mouth, voice, answer, and tongue") influence others for good or ill. Your actions (model, example, and walk) influence others for good or ill.
- You are similarly influenced by others.
- Biblical counseling/discipleship is fundamentally church-based.

Questions:

1. How are you a wise or a foolish counselor/discipler?
2. Are you becoming wiser?
3. Where are your opportunities to help others change into God's image?
4. Who has God called you to help?
5. How can you turn counseling/discipleship knowledge into counseling/discipling action?

Colossians 3:16a *Let the **word** of Christ dwell in you **richly…***