

Gospel Conversations... ***Let's Talk Equipping the Church to Counsel***

Session 2:

4 Résumé Qualifications of a Competent Biblical Counselor: Every Member a One-Another Minister: Romans 15:14



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Presentation Focus

So, now you're excited about biblical counseling.

But what qualifies a Christian to become a competent biblical counselor?

The world, and often even the church, communicates to us that unless we have a Ph.D. in psychology and licensure, we should stay far away from ministering to hurting people.

But what does the Word say?

In this session, we'll learn together from Romans 15:14 that God calls "the average, ordinary Christian" to become equipped for one-another ministry—for biblical counseling.

We'll learn the Bible's "4C" résumé qualifications that equip every believer for the personal ministry of the Word.

**4 Résumé Qualifications of a Competent Biblical Counselor:
Every Member a One-Another Minister
Romans 15:14**

Sharing Together

1. Imagine you were forwarding your résumé to the Divine Counselor. What characteristics would you highlight to demonstrate your qualifications to be a biblical counselor/one-another minister?

2. If you were looking for someone to talk to about issues in your life, what characteristics would you look for in seeking a competent biblical counselor/one-another minister?

I. Competent to Counsel: The Apostle Paul and the “Average, Ordinary” Christian in Rome—Romans 15:14

➤ Incompetent to Counsel in Ourselves

➤ Competent to Counsel As We Grow in Christ

1. Competence and Confidence Based on God’s Word: The Sufficiency of Christianity

2. Confidence and Descriptive Research

➤ The Divine Counselor’s 4 Résumé Qualifications for Biblical Counselors: Romans 15:14

◆ _____: “Full of Goodness”

◆ _____: “Complete in Knowledge”

◆ _____: “Competent to Instruct”

◆ _____: “Brothers/One Another”

➤ Not a “Brain Dump”

II. Christ-Like Character: Loving Like Jesus—“Full of Goodness” (Heart/Being)

- **How to Be Like Christ. Reflecting Christ.**
- **Equipping Counselors for Relational Goodness—Increasingly Reflecting the Love of Christ**

A. “Goodness”: *Agathos*—Relational Goodness (Galatians 5:22-23)

- ◆ Biblical Goodness: Christ-like Character that Relates with Grace—Active, Compassionate,

- ◆ The powerful biblical counselor reflects and relates like the _____
Counselor—Jesus

B. “Full: Overflowing

- ◆ The person who is good at relating to _____ will be good at relating to _____.
- ◆ Competence without character is like one _____ practicing cosmetic surgery on another _____.

Sharing Together

- In your own life, what can you do to keep growing in Christlike love and grace?
- In equipping other counselors, what steps should we take to help them to be continually growing more like Christ?

III. Biblical Content/Conviction: Thinking Like Jesus—“Complete in Knowledge” (Head/Knowing)

- **How to Change Lives with Christ’s Changeless Truth. Renewed in Christ.**
- **Equipping Counselors Who Wisely Relate Truth to Life—Uniting Scripture and Soul**

A. “Complete”

- ◆ _____ our entire being. _____ by God’s Truth.

B. “Knowledge: *Gnoseos*

- ◆ Information + Application = _____
- ◆ Relating God’s truth to human relationships: _____
- ◆ Uniting Scripture and Soul: _____

Sharing Together

- In your own life, what can you do to keep growing in Christlike wisdom to relate truth to life?
- In equipping other counselors, what steps should we take to help them to be continually growing in their ability to wisely relate truth to life (Philippians 1:9-11)?

IV. Counseling Competence: Serving Like Jesus—“Competent to Counsel” (Hands/Doing)

- **How to Care Like Christ. Reproducing Christ in Others.**
- **Equipping Counselors Who Are Competent to Disciple**

A. Competent: *Dunamenois*

- ◆ _____ to Accomplish a Mission
- ◆ _____: Capability, Resources, Strength, Competence

B. Competent to Care-Front One Another: _____—Spiritual Direction for Sin

C. Competent to Comfort One Another: _____—Soul Care for Suffering

Sharing Together

- In your counseling ministry, what can you do to keep growing in your competence to help sinning Christians to find forgiveness and victory in Christ? What can you do to keep growing in competence to help suffering Christians to find comfort and hope in Christ?
- In equipping other counselors, what steps should we take to equip them to grow in helping sinning Christians? What can we do to equip them to grow in helping suffering Christians?

V. Christian Community: Connecting in Jesus—"Brothers/One Another" (Home/Loving)

- **How to Grow Together in Christ. Reconnected through Christ.**
- **Equipping Counselors Who Connect with Christ and the Body of Christ**

A. "Brothers/One Another"

B. The One-Another Context

1. The One-Another Context in Romans
2. The One-Another Context in Biblical Counseling and the Church: A Vision for a Church of Biblical Counseling
3. The One-Another Context in Equipping Biblical Counselors
 - ◆ We become effective biblical counselors by _____ and _____ biblical counseling in community.

Sharing Together

- In your own life, what can you do to keep growing in connection to the Body of Christ and in deepening your one-another relationships with other Christians?
- In equipping other counselors, how should we structure our training process so that it is not only head knowledge and academic content? How can we structure our counselor training so trainees develop deep one-another relationships with each other?

Final Sharing Together

1. How would equipping in biblical counseling be impacted if Christlike character was de-emphasized or omitted?
2. How would equipping in biblical counseling be impacted if biblical content and wisely relating truth to life was de-emphasized or omitted?
3. How would equipping in biblical counseling be impacted if competence in counseling suffering people was de-emphasized or omitted? How would equipping in biblical counseling be impacted if competence in counseling sinning people was de-emphasized or omitted?
4. How would equipping in biblical counseling be impacted if one-another Christian community was de-emphasized or omitted?