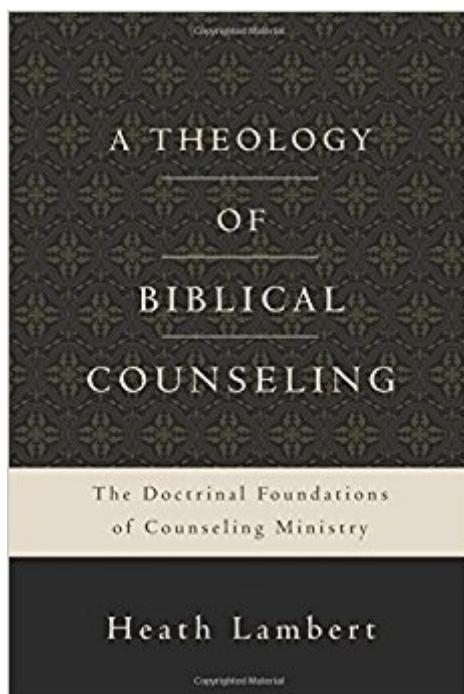


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A Theology Of Biblical Counseling: The Doctrinal Foundations Of Counseling Ministry



Synopsis

Since the beginning of the biblical counseling movement in 1970, biblical counselors have argued that counseling is a ministry of the Word, just like preaching or missions. As a ministry, counseling must be defined according to sound biblical theology rather than secular principles of psychology. For over four decades, biblical theology has been at the core of the biblical counseling movement. Leaders in biblical counseling have emphasized a commitment to teaching doctrine in their counseling courses out of the conviction that good theology leads to good counseling and bad theology leads to bad counseling. A Theology of Biblical Counseling is a landmark new book that unpacks the core theological convictions that underlie sound counseling, and practical wisdom for counseling today. Dr. Heath Lambert shows how biblical counseling is rooted in the Scriptures while illustrating the real challenges counselors face today through true stories from the counseling room. A substantive textbook written in accessible language, it is an ideal resource for use in training biblical counselors at colleges, seminaries, and training institutes. In each chapter, doctrine comes to life in real ministry to real people, dramatically demonstrating how theology intersects with the lives of actual counselees.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The knowledge of God--theology--is like dawn for the human heart. Lambert wakes us up early and takes us outside to see this light flood the landscape of human life. A fine overview of how key Christian doctrines relate to counseling, this book will be on my required reading list."-Jeremy Pierre, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biblical Counseling & Chair of the Department of Biblical

Counseling and Family Ministry, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary" "I thank God for Heath Lambert and this book. Heath has ministered biblical counseling to me personally, to my family, and to the church I serve as a pastor. I praise God that more people than can encounter Heath face to face will have the benefit of his ministry through this book." -Dr. James M Hamilton, Jr., Professor of Biblical Theology, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Heath Lambert nailed it: counseling is a theological discipline. He demonstrates this simple, profound truth and shows the application of a dozen doctrines to the ministry of counseling. Let Christian theology--"the queen of the sciences"--reign in the realm of personal ministry, and let this book serve as an escort. -Robert D. Jones, Author, *Uprooting Anger and Pursuing Peace*; Counseling Professor, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Heath Lambert (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is the Executive Director of the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors and is the Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church Jacksonville, FL. He is also a visiting faculty member at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Lambert is the co-editor of *Counseling the Hard Cases: True Stories Illustrating the Sufficiency of God's Resources in Scripture* (B&H, 2012), and author of *The Biblical Counseling Movement After Adams* (Crossway, 2011), *Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace* (Zondervan, 2013), and co-author of *Transforming Homosexuality: What the Bible Says about Sexual Orientation and Change* (P&R, 2015).

Lambert has provided a clear and articulate view of the Biblical Counseling movement. In my mind, it is utterly persuasive. The BCM still feels very new, though I suppose you could say it is nearing its 40th year, and so much important work needs to be done. This book is a large step in the right direction. In this book, Lambert argues the basic claim of the BCM. Counseling is a theological task and where one person seeks to provide help to another person facing the problems of life. The Bible speaks with authority on every issue it addresses and the Bible addresses the issues of life and how to live faithfully before God. The Bible is therefore a sufficient resource for counseling. Two of the highlights of this book were the distinction between categories of Biblical sufficiency arguing that Material Sufficiency (The Bible says all we need it to say to live Godly lives) is of greatest implication to the discussion of counseling. Lambert's critique of integration is devastating to Christian Integrationists and is the most effective I've read. I also gained new insights in his discussion of the relationship of the body and the soul and have new confidence in the soundness and application of a dichotomist perspective. This is a theological work with attention given to the application of

theology to counseling. It is a theological work but not a method. There are basic counseling insights and a few shallow case studies. The case studies had the effect of showing general application of a principle but some readers may find these unsatisfying. Its best to view this work not as a method but as a defense of the theological nature of counseling. There is little or no discussion of homework or process. For a quick primer on method, I recommend The Pastor and Counseling: The Basics of Shepherding Members in Need (9Marks) which I thought was fantastic and immanently practical. I'm grateful for Lambert's leadership at the ACBC and in the BCM and am happy to recommend this book to any Biblical Counselor or any Christian with a high view of Scripture seeking to help others. For Christian integrationists, I think you must seriously grapple with this case for the sufficiency of Scripture in counseling. I hope many books like this will follow and I expect Lambert's pen to keep moving.

This book serves to lay the theological foundation of why we do biblical counseling while giving practical insight on how these truths practically play out. This is a great starting point for education in biblical counseling and an ideal precursor to another great biblical counseling book, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands. Edit in response to other reviews: Lambert does not state psychologists only come to false conclusions. He simply states that what true insights they have spring from biblical truth into their own constructs. Biblical counsellors do not feel obligated to adopt these constructs. Does this mean they see psychology as having no truth in it? No. It means they feel no obligation to a middle man whose priorities are not the same. Lambert also stresses that counsellors not take the role of physicians and encourages medical examinations where appropriate. He does not say that Scripture speaks to every area of life. For example there is no manual in Scripture on how to respond to unfair and unhelpful reviews, but it does speak to how we can deal with such issues, like speaking the truth in love. These Vine reviewers do not seem to have read carefully, objectively, or even completely (I'm not convinced they all read the whole book). I pray they saw the gospel expounded and applied and are brought nearer to Christ regardless. If you read this book with humble attentiveness, I'm sure you will be sharpened as I was.

This book is the best book ever written on the Theology of Biblical Counseling since Jay Adam's 'A Theology of Christian Counseling'. Anyone who wishes to know anything about Biblical Counselling should start with this book before reading any other work on Biblical Counselling. "Counselling is a theology"

A great resource for anyone proclaiming the gospel one on one or in the marketplace. Well written and understandable for all Christians.

Great book discussing theological foundations of biblical counseling in layman's terms with case examples used as illustrations.

Dr. Lambert does an excellent job unpacking theology, and then the areas by which theology pertains to counseling & helping people (that is - all areas). Recommended for the educated and layman alike. It is entirely valuable & worth your time.

This book was a Christmas present for my son-in-law. He was thrilled to get it. He and my daughter gave me another book written by this author. Can't wait to get started reading it!

Excellent resource for Biblical Counselling. Thoughtful and scholarly approach to understanding and applying biblical principles to the sorrows and suffering encountered in modern life.

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