



Birmingham Theological Seminary  
2200 Briarwood Way  
Birmingham, Alabama 35243  
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## **DM4820 Biblical Counseling & Ecclesiology, Legal Issues & Peacemaking**

**Semester:** Fall Semester 2025

**Day & Time:** Monday, 5:30-8:30 PM

**Professor:** Mark Horne, DMin

**Email:** purifyandelevate@gmail.com

**Course:** DM4820 Biblical Counseling,  
Eccles, Legal Issues and Peacemaking

**Room:** VC meeting

**Credits:** 3

**Phone:** Dr. Horne (864) 391-1780

**Course Note:** This is a VC course. Dr. Horne will provide a Google Meet Video link for each meeting. As an additional note, this course adopts a Flipped Learning model following Robert Talbert's structure. Students engage in content before class and apply it through in-class discussions, debates, and case studies.

**Course Description:** This course will explore the role of counseling in the church, contemporary legal issues, and the proactive role of the counselor in peacemaking. It emphasizes how to minister within legal boundaries, how to design and manage a biblically sound counseling center, and how to promote peace and pastoral care within the church context.

**Course Purpose:** To prepare students with biblical and legal literacy necessary to establish and oversee a counseling ministry that navigates legal and ecclesiastical challenges wisely and effectively.

### **Student Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Demonstrate foundational knowledge** of legal parameters affecting biblical counseling through pre-class readings, video lectures, and weekly quizzes.
- **Design a legally viable biblical counseling center**, applying knowledge from preparatory materials to in-class simulations and collaborative ministry planning exercises.
- **Evaluate the roles and responsibilities** involved in managing a biblical counseling center using case-based peer critiques and scenario planning during classroom sessions.
- **Interpret and assess legal considerations** that arise in counseling by engaging in team-based problem solving and guided legal issue analysis during class time.
- **Practice biblically grounded discernment** in counseling scenarios, reflecting Christ's instruction to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves," developed through role-playing and post-class reflection prompts.

- **Research contemporary legal challenges** using scholarly and ministry-oriented resources, compiling annotated abstracts and sharing findings during in-class roundtables.
- **Integrate ecclesiastical accountability structures** into counseling practices, especially within the local church context, through comparative analysis of denominational policies and collaborative peer presentations.

### Required Texts:

Bullis, Ronald, K. and Cynthia S. Mazur. *Legal Issues and Religious Counseling*, Philadelphia, Westminster John Know Press, pages 136. **ISBN-13:** 978-0664253868; **ISBN-10:** 9780664253.

Horne, Mark. "The Spiritual Act of Worship: A Government's Duty to Protect a Biblical Counselor's Purpose." *Birmingham Theological Journal* 2, no. 1 (December 2024): 51–71. [https://www.btswritingcenter.net/files/ugd/98b6b2\\_bab3f3e0f1a547afb03dc6564c3c2000.pdf](https://www.btswritingcenter.net/files/ugd/98b6b2_bab3f3e0f1a547afb03dc6564c3c2000.pdf)

Johnson, T. Dale, and Edward Wilde. *Legal Issues in Biblical Counseling: Direction and Help for Churches and Counselors*, New Growth Press, pages 240 pages. **ISBN-10:** 1645072460.

Levicoff, Steve, *Christian Counseling and the Law*, Chicago, Moody Publishing, pages 203. **ISBN-13:** 978-0802412393; **ISBN-10:** 0802412394.

Sande, Ken, *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Baker Books; 3rd edition (January 1, 2004), ASIN: B009AT2JHE (free if you are a Prime Member). Hardback-order from-- <https://rw360.org/product/the-peacemaker-a-biblical-guide-to-resolving-personal-conflict-paperback/>.

### Collateral or Recommended Texts:

Conn, Joann Wolski. "A Discipleship of Equals: Past, Present, Future." *Horizons* 14, no. 2 (December 31, 1987): 231–61. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=dbfff91e-6fe9-37d9-9a6f-f623c0a20306>.

Guterman, Jeffrey. *Mastering the Art of Solution-Focused Counseling*. American Counseling Association, 2006. ISBN 10: 1556202679.

Noakes-Duncan, Thomas M I. "The Emergence of Restorative Justice in Ecclesial Practice." *Journal of Moral Theology* 5, no. 2 (December 31, 2016): 1–21. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=bd5c77c7-4328-3a01-ad96-ce38109ab75c>.

Ohlschlager, George and Peter Mosgofian. *Law for the Christian Counselor*, Wipf & Stock Pub (Reprint Edition, 2012 ISBN-13: 978-1606085059

Rushdoony, Rousas John. *The Institutes of Biblical Law*. The Craig Press, 1973. ISBN 10: 0875524108.

Witte, John Jr. *Table Talk : Short Talks on the Weightier Matters of Law and Religion*. Leiden: Brill | Nijhoff, 2023. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=437a4078-7efb-3235-af5b-48c8aa022550>.

## Course Requirements and Assessments:

Each week follows a three-part format:

- **Pre-Class:** Assigned readings/videos with online quiz or reflection questions.
- **In-Class:** Collaborative discussions, role-plays, and case analyses.
- **Post-Class:** Short reflective assignments, peer feedback, or follow-up readings.

## Project One: Guided Study and Reflection

### Week 1 (Sept. 8):

- **Pre-Class:** Read *Legal Issues and Religious Counseling*. Quiz Question (QQ): *What is informed consent and why is it legally essential in biblical counseling?*
- **In-Class:** Collaborative discussion centered on the prompt: *What was the most challenging legal concept discussed this week and why?*
- **Post-Class:** Develop a study guide for the textbook *Legal Issues and Religious Counseling* that you could use for a college-level course. Provide three questions per chapter in **bold font**. For each question, provide your answer directly below the question and format your response in *italics*. **Due: Sept. 15.**

### Week 2 (Sept 15):

- **Pre-Class:** Read *Legal Issues in Biblical Counseling*. QQ: *Define the difference between pastoral and professional counseling from a legal standpoint.*
- **In-class:** Collaborative discussion centered on the prompt: *How did your understanding of ecclesiastical structures change after today's session?*
- **Post-class:** Develop a study guide for the textbook *Legal Issues and Religious Counseling* that you could use for the lay counselors in your church. Provide three questions per chapter in **bold font**. For each question, provide your answer directly below the question and format your response in *italics*. **Due: Sept. 22.**

### Week 3 (Sept. 22):

- **Pre-Class:** Read "The Spiritual Act of Worship: A Government's Duty to Protect a Biblical Counselor's Purpose." QQ: *What does the First Amendment guarantee regarding religious counseling?*
- **In-Class:** Collaborative discussion centered around the prompt: *What did you learn about the biblical counselor's relationship to secular government?*
- **Post-Class:** Write a one-page bullet-point list of new information and insights you have gained from these three texts. **Due: Sept. 29.**

### Week 4 (Sept. 29):

- **No class.**

## Project Two: Legal Research and Peer Synthesis

### Week 5 (Oct. 6):

- **Pre-class:** Search for and read five journal articles concerning religious counseling and the law. Two of these should be from academic, peer-reviewed journals (like our *BTS Journal*). One of these may be in more popular professional magazines, like *Christianity Today*. Two should be from blogs like Biblical Counseling Coalition and RW360.org. **No QQ this week.**
- **In-Class:** Collaborative discussion centered on the prompt: *How are you integrating biblical wisdom with legal constraints in your counseling philosophy?*
- **Post-Class:** Write an abstract for each article. (If you need help with knowing what an abstract is and how to write one, [Purdue OWL](#) is very helpful.). Here is an example of the format for each of the articles for this submission:  
**Title of Article:** “Your Nine Greatest Legal Risks”  
**Citation:** Richard R. Hammar, “Your Nine Greatest Legal Risks,” *Leadership Journal*, Spring 2000, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/2000/04/your-nine-greatest-legal-risks/>.  
**Your Abstract:** This article describes results.... **Due: Oct. 13.**

#### Week 6 (Oct. 13):

- **Pre-class:** Read *Christian Counseling, and the Law*. QQ: *List three risk management practices for church-based counselors.*
- **In-Class:** Collaborative discussion centered on the prompt: *What state, county, or city ordinance do affect how you do counseling?*
- **Post-Class:** Develop a study guide for the textbook *Christian Counseling, and the Law* that you could use for the lay counselors in your church. Provide three questions per chapter in **bold font**. For each question, provide your answer directly below the question and format your response in *italics*. **Due: Oct. 20.**

#### Week 7 (Oct. 20):

- **No Class.**

#### Week 8 (Oct. 27):

- **Pre-class:** Read *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*. QQ: *Why must biblical counselors understand mandatory reporting laws?*
- **In-Class:** Collaborative discussion centered on the prompt: *In what way did this week’s reading shift your view on peacemaking within the church?*
- **Post-Class:** Reflect on the reading and class discussion and write yourself a one-page, single-spaced, bullet point list of what you learned to help you counsel towards peace. **Due: Nov. 3**

### Project 3: Ecclesiastical Policy Application

#### Week 9 (Nov. 3):

- **Pre-class:** Read, reflect, and analyze the PCA *Book of Church Order*, chapters 27-46. If you do not have one (or if you do) you can find a downloadable or a digital copy here: <https://www.pcaac.org/bco/>.

- **In-Class:** Roundtable workshop evaluating real-world ministry cases: **Church Discipline and Due Process.**
  - **Scenario:** A church member under informal discipline is confronting a sin issue involving addiction. The session is divided over how to proceed with formal charges under BCO 31–32.
  - **Prompt:**
    - What are the steps required for a church to bring formal charges under the PCA Book of Church Order?
    - How would you counsel the church leaders regarding due process and pastoral care?
    - How does this process reflect both justice and grace in the life of the church?
- **Post-Class:** Write an 8 to 10-page essay on the value of the PCA Ecclesiastical System for the biblical counselor, especially one who cares for PCA members and churches when working with marriage and family issues such as divorce, remarriage, pornography, pregnancy out of wedlock, and out of control teenagers. **Due: Nov. 17.**

#### Week 10 (Nov. 10):

- **Pre-class:** Watch provided video on PCA governance. Dr. Horne will email the video link on Nov. 4 to the cohort.
- **In-Class:** Roundtable workshop evaluating real-world ministry cases: **Divorce and Remarriage.**
  - **Scenario:** A woman in the church seeks counseling after filing for divorce from her unbelieving spouse, citing emotional neglect. She desires to remarry after the divorce is final.
  - **Prompt:**
    - Based on BCO Chapters 46 and related Scriptures, how should the session respond?
    - What pastoral counseling guidance would you provide to her?
    - How do ecclesiastical decisions align with or differ from civil law in this matter?
- **Post-Class:** Continue working on the 10-page essay, making any changes based on learned information from this session's gained information. **Due: Nov. 17.**

#### Week 11 (Nov. 17):

- **Pre-class:** Read, reflect, and analyze **Case # 1 of Judy and Jerry** and **Case #2 Maryjane** (Appendix). The questions at the end should prompt your analysis.
- **In-Class:** Roundtable workshop evaluating real-world ministry cases: **Session Conflict and Authority.**
  - **Scenario:** A church member is bringing charges against an elder, claiming spiritual abuse and authoritarian behavior. The session is unsure whether internal mediation or formal judicial process is best.

- **Prompt:**
  - What mechanisms does the PCA BCO provide for handling accusations against a ruling elder (BCO 31, 34)?
  - What role does the Presbytery play, and when should it intervene?
  - How would you counsel the session to preserve unity while pursuing accountability?
- **Post-Class:** Choose **ONE** of the following “The Law and Your State” scenarios. Research the situation and write a 5 to 7-page paper to address the issue.
  - The law and you in your state regarding:
    1. Counseling a homosexual towards ceasing and desisting in your state
    2. Counseling a spouse whose mate has committed adultery in your state
      - a. Civil implications
      - b. Ecclesiastical implications in your denomination
    3. Counseling parents with a child who is suffering from Gender Dysphoria from a legal perspective and working within those boundaries, how would you counsel or how would you challenge the state?
    4. Counseling a spouse whose mate has declared they are other than heterosexual in your state
      - a. Civil implications
      - b. Ecclesiastical implications
    5. Counseling a parent who is challenging the local school board on textbook selection within your state.

**Due Dec. 1.**

#### **Week 12 (Nov. 24):**

- **Pre-class:** Read, reflect, and analyze **Case #3 Susan** and **Case # 4 Your harassment charge** (Appendix). The questions at the end should prompt your analysis.
  - **In-Class:** Roundtable workshop evaluating real-world ministry cases: **Gender Identity and Church Membership**
    - **Scenario:** A young adult raised in the church identifies as non-binary and wishes to join the church as a communicant member. The session seeks biblical and ecclesiastical guidance.
    - **Prompt:**
      - How should the session evaluate this request using the BCO and pastoral care principles?
      - What tension exists between ecclesiastical fidelity and cultural pressures?
      - How would you approach shepherding both this individual and the broader congregation?
  - **Post-Class:** Continue working on the 5 to 7-page “The Law and Your State” essay, making any changes based on learned information from this session’s gained information.
- Due Dec. 1.**

#### **Week 13 (Dec. 1):**

- No class.

**Week 14 (Dec. 8):**

- No class.

**Dec. 15. THE ABSOLUTE LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ASSIGNMENTS!!**

**BTS Format, Style, and Writing Standards:**

All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. All papers are to be #12 font Times New Roman and Double-Spaced. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade. Please see the BTS Turabian Style Guide for more information on turning in papers and assignments.

The BTS Turabian Style Guide and other resources are available on the BTS Writing Center webpage: <https://www.btswritingcenter.net/>

In addition, the Writing Center runs 2-3 Writing Workshops every semester. They are very helpful and highly recommended.

**BTS Plagiarism / Generative AI Policy**

In addition to the BTS plagiarism policy, BTS is implementing a new Generative AI policy. Unless clearly directed by the instructor, the students should submit their own work, independent of artificial intelligence tools. Use of generative AI to write papers or to write significant portions of assignments is considered an ethical violation of our Student Code of Conduct and to be a violation of general academic integrity, which could result in a zero on the assignment and/or a lowered letter grade for the course by the professor. If determined to be an egregious violation, it could lead to further sanctions administered through the Academic Committee, including expulsion from BTS.

**Course Schedule:**

Sep. 08	How the Apostles Modeled a Relationship to Civil Law
Sep. 15	How to Get Sued
Sep. 22	You Said We Would Be Happy: Contracts and Warranties
Sep. 29	NO CLASS – Mark at a Conference
Oct. 06	DHR: To Report or Not to Report
Oct. 13	Biblical Counseling and Liberty
Oct. 20	Fall Break – Briarwood PCA's <i>National Missions Conference</i>
Oct. 27	Shepherding the Flock through Legal Issues
Nov. 03	Relationship Between the Local Church and the Local Lawyer
Nov. 10	Church Employment Law and Reporting

Nov. 17	Case Study #4
Nov. 24	Overview of Establishing a Counseling Ministry
Dec. 01	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 08	NO CLASS - Reading Week & Briarwood PCA's <i>Walk Through Nativity</i>
Dec. 15	The Final Day to Submit Assignments

### Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality and attend all class sessions. Any absences should be communicated to the professor beforehand. Students may miss up to three classes with impunity.

[NOTE: Standard BTS Attendance Policy is that students may not miss any more than three classes without a course penalty. Given the reality of distance-based students and video conference options, if students **clearly identify at the beginning of the semester that they will primarily be asynchronous students (depending on the digital recording of class because of a conflict with their schedule)**, then the student may attend without incurring a penalty for their “absences,” providing they are turning in all their work on time. Please see the BTS Faculty Handbook for more information on synchronous and asynchronous video conference students and policies and the commitments a faculty member agrees to when they teach a video conference or a live hybrid class]

### Class Policies and Procedures:

- BTS highly recommends using handwritten note taking methods in class and keeping computer usage to a minimum.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.
- All assignments must be submitted by email by 11:59 (CDT/CST) on the due date.
- Late assignments – DON'T HAVE THEM!!! However, if you need to turn one in, Dr. Horne will work with you.
- Missed tests/exams may only be made up with an excused absence, preferably in advance of class. Excused absence tests/exams **must be made up before the final day of the semester!!!!**
- **COMMUNICATION! COMMUNICATION!! COMMUNICATION!!!**

### Video Conference Policies and Procedures:

- Please utilize the BTS “Best VC (Video Conference) Practices” information for the course.
- Laptops/Desktops are the preferred method of attending a video conference course. Information will be shared on the screen, so phones will be less useful.
- In Video Conference, it is preferable for the student to keep their video on (when possible) so that students and faculty may engage with one another. Extended periods of dark screen will result in follow-up and potential removal from class.
- Other electronics should be used sparingly.



## **Extended Bibliography**

This bibliography suggests books on various counseling topics. Those recommended for beginning biblical counselors are noted with an asterisk (\*). Some of these works will be listed without annotation. The professor did not italicize the titles for quick typing.

### ADDICTIONS

Berg, Jim. Freedom That Lasts® Level 1 Student Manual. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2011 (169 pages).

\*Shaw, Mark. The Heart of Addiction: A Biblical Perspective. Bemidji, Minnesota: Focus Publishing, Inc., 2008 (256 pages).

Welch, Edward T. Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave. Phillipsburg, NJ: Puritan and Reformed Publishing, 2001 (298 pages).

### ANGER

\*Priolo, Lou. The Heart of Anger: Practical Help for the Prevention and Cure of Anger in Children. Calvary Press, 1998 (201 pages).

### ANXIETY ISSUES

Berg, James A. Quietening a Noisy Soul. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2005.

Go to the [www.QuietingANoisySoul.com](http://www.QuietingANoisySoul.com) website, click on the "QuickStart" tab, then on the "Panic Attacks and Anxiety Issues" or the "Obsessive Thoughts and Compulsive Behavior" links to view video clips about using QANS when dealing with these issues.

\*Fitzpatrick, Elyse. Overcoming Fear, Worry, and Anxiety. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2001 (224 pages).

### DEPRESSION

Berg, James A. Quietening a Noisy Soul. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2005.

Go to the [www.QuietingANoisySoul.com](http://www.QuietingANoisySoul.com) website, click on the "QuickStart" tab, then on the "Depression and Despair" link to view a video clip about using QANS when dealing with depression.

\*Mack, Wayne. Out of the Blues. Bemidji, Minnesota: Focus Publishing, Inc., 2006 (144 pages).

Welch, Edward T. Depression: A Stubborn Darkness. Winston-Salem: Punch Press, 2004 (280 pages).

### EATING DISORDERS

Berg, James A. [www.QuietingANoisySoul.com](http://www.QuietingANoisySoul.com) website.

Click on the "QuickStart" tab then on "Anorexia and Bulimia" link for two hours of audio lecture and downloadable syllabus outlining the counseling issues and biblical strategies for counseling eating disorders.

Elyse Fitzpatrick. Love to Eat—Hate to Eat: Breaking the Bondage of Destructive Eating Habits. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 1999 (264 pages).

\*Notcheva, Marie. Redeemed from the Pit: Biblical Repentance and Restoration from the Bondage of Eating Disorders. Calvary Press Publishing, 2011 (318 pages).

### ENTERTAINMENT CHOICES

Medved, Michael, Hollywood vs. America: Popular Culture and the War on Traditional Values. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992 (386 pages).

Myers, Kenneth A. All God's Children and Blue Suede Shoes: Christians and Popular Culture. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1989 (213 pages).

Postman, Neil. Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business. New York: Penguin Books, 1985 (184 pages).

\*Wilson, Wayne A. Worldly Amusements: Restoring the Lordship of Christ to Our Entertainment Choices. Enumclaw, Washington: Wine Press Publishing, 1999 (299 pages).

### FORGIVENESS

Adams, Jay E. From Forgiven to Forgiving: Discover the Path to Biblical Forgiveness. Calvary Press, 1997, originally published by Victor Books, 1987, 168 pages.

\*DeMoss, Nancy Leigh: Choosing Forgiveness. Moody Publishers, 2008, 256 pages

\*Vaughn, Harold and T.P. Johnston. Forgiveness: How to Get Along With Everybody All the Time. Vinton, VA: Christ Life Publishers, 1992, 2008 (126 pages).

### HISTORY OF THE BIBLICAL COUNSELING MOVEMENT

Lambert, Heath. The Biblical Counseling Movement After Adams. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012 (170 pages).

Powlison, David. The Biblical Counseling Movement: History and Context. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2010 (331 pages).

### HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Adams, Jay. E. Christian Counselor's Manual. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1986, originally 1973 (476 pages).

Chapter 27 (Helping Through Homework), chapter 28 (An Analysis of Homework), and chapter 29 (Ways of Using Homework) provide many illustrations of good homework projects to use in counseling.

Kruis, John G. Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling, 3rd Edition. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2001 (145 pages).

Mack, Wayne. A Homework Manual for Biblical Living-Volume 1: Personal and Interpersonal Problems. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1979 (202 pages).

\_\_\_\_\_. A Homework Manual for Biblical Living-Volume 2: Family and Marital Problems. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1980.

### HOMOSEXUALITY

\*Butterfield, Rosaria Champagne. The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey into Christian Faith. Pittsburg: Crown & Covenant Publications, 2012 (154 pages).

Dallas, Joe. The Gay Gospel: How Pro-Gay Advocates Misread the Bible (formerly, A Strong Delusion: Confronting the "Gay Christian" Movement, 1997). Eugene, Oregon, Harvest House Publishers, 2007).

\*Dallas, Joe. Desires in Conflict: Hope for Men Who Struggle with Sexual Identity. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1991, 2003 (253 pages).

Dallas, Joe. When Homosexuality Hits Home: What to Do When a Loved One Says They're Gay. Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2004 (191 pages).

\*Hubbard, Peter. Love Into Light: The Gospel, the Homosexual, and the Church. Greenville, SC: Ambassador International, 2013 (175 pages).

### KNOWING GOD

\*DeHann, Dan. The God You Can Know. Chicago: Moody, 1982 (133 pages).

Packer, J. I. Knowing God. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1973 (256 pages).

\*Tozer, A. W. The Attributes of God: A Journey into the Father's Heart. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1997.

### MANHOOD

Chanski, Mark. Manly Dominion: In a Passive-Purple Four-Ball World. Merrick, NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 2005 (247 pages).

Farrar, Steve. King Me: What Every Son Wants and Needs From His Father. Chicago: Moody Press, 2005 (265 pages).

Lewis, Robert. Raising a Modern-Day Knight: A Father's Role in Guiding His Son to Authentic Manhood. Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1997, 2007 (195 pages).

MacDonald, Gordan. The Effective Father. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1977—now out of print (256 pages).

\*Phillips, Richard D. The Masculine Mandate. Orlando: Reformation Trust, 2010.

Piper, John and Wayne Grudem, Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood: A Response to Evangelical Feminism. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1991 (566 pages).

### PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION AND MEDICAL ISSUES

\*Breggin, Peter R., MD and David Cohen, Ph.D. Your Drug May Be Your Problem: How and Why to Stop Taking Psychiatric Medications. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing (271 pages.)

\_\_\_\_\_. Psychiatric Drug Withdrawal: A Guide for Prescribers, Therapists, Patients, and Their Families. New York: Springer Publishing Company (310 pages).

\*Fitzpatrick, Elyse and Laura Hendrickson, MD. Will Medicine Stop the Pain?: Finding God's Healing for Depression, Anxiety, and Other Troubling Emotions. Chicago: Moody Press, 2006 (234 pages).

Smith, Robert D., MD. The Christian Counselor's Medical Desk Reference. Stanley, NC: Timeless Texts, 2000 (481 pages).

### DOCUMENTARY VIDEOS AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE DANGERS OF PSYCHIATRIC DRUGS

Simple Truths About Psychiatry. Free video series by Dr. Peter Breggin available on his website, [www.Breggin.com](http://www.Breggin.com) or by searching for the series title (above) on YouTube. Titles include, "Do You Have a Biochemical Imbalance," "How Do Psychiatric Drugs Really Work?," and "What is Medication Spell-binding?"

Generation Rx. Kevin Miller. This 81-minute documentary is another eye-opening, independent expose' of the dangers of psychotropic medicines. Extended trailers are available on YouTube. The DVD may be ordered from Amazon and may be viewed free on Netflix.

Making a Killing: The Untold Story of Psychotropic Drugging. Citizens Commission on Human Rights.

May be viewed free at [www.cchr.org/videos/making-a-killing.html](http://www.cchr.org/videos/making-a-killing.html). "Contains over 175 interviews with lawyers, mental health experts, the families of victims and the survivors themselves."

Please note: The CCHR is sponsored by the Church of Scientology because the findings in these documentaries fit with Scientology's theology. However, this association with Scientology does not diminish in any way the accuracy of the facts presented in the documents available on their website. The facts presented are well-documented elsewhere.

You will also profit from "The Marketing of Madness," "Dead Wrong: How Psychiatric Drugs Can Kill Your Child," and "Prescription for Violence." All of these documentaries can be viewed free online from their website.

### SEXUALITY/PURITY

Dallas, Joe. *The Game Plan: The Men's 30-Day Strategy for Attaining Sexual Integrity*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2005 (225 pages).

\*Gallagher, Steve. *At the Altar of Sexual Idolatry*. Dry Ridge, Kentucky: Pure Life Ministries, 1986, 2000 (285 pages).

Harris, Joshua. *Sex is Not the Problem (Lust Is): Sexual Purity in a Lust-Saturated World (previously released as Not Even a Hint)* Sisters, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers, 2003 (190 pages).

Heimbach, Daniel R. *True Sexual Morality: Recovering Biblical Standards for a Culture in Crisis*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2004 (525 pages).

Hummel, Rand. *Lest You Fall: Meditations to Fight Moral Impurity*. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2005 (133 pages).

Minnick, Mark. *Getting Back Up—Spiritual Renewal*.

This is a series of ten messages preached at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Greenville, SC and available from the church website at [www.mountcalvarybaptist.org](http://www.mountcalvarybaptist.org).

Piper, John and Justin Taylor, editors. *Sex and the Supremacy of Christ*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2005 (283 pages).

Smith, Robert D., MD. *Biblical Principles of Sex*. Stanley, NC: Timeless Texts, 2003 (51 pages).

Wheat, Ed., MD. *Intended for Pleasures: Sex Technique and Sexual Fulfillment in Christian Marriage*. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1977 (256 pages).

White, John. *Eros Defiled: The Christian and Sexual Sin*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1977 (300 pages).

### SEXUAL ABUSE

Testimonies of Abuse Sufferers—These works chronicle the accounts and battles of three women who have suffered much as a result of abusive situations and offer powerful testimonies of the grace of God to bring healing and hope through an intimate relationship with God.

Jones, Beneth Peters. *Mount Up with Wounded Wings: For Women From Hurtful Home Backgrounds*. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 1994.

Revell, Glenda. *Glenda's Story: Led by Grace*. Gateway to Joy (Back to the Bible Publishing), 1994 (122 pages).

Van Stone, Doris & Erwin W. Lutzer. *No Place to Cry: The Hurt and Healing of Sexual Abuse*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1992 (128 pages).

### HELP FOR BOTH SUFFERERS AND THOSE WHO COUNSEL THEM

Langberg, Diane Mandt. *On the Threshold of Hope*. Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999 (217 pages).

\_\_\_\_\_. *Counseling Survivors of Sexual Abuse*. Xulon Press, 2003 (299 pages).

\*Powlison, David. Recovering from Child Abuse: Healing and Hope for Victims. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2004 (24 pages). Ryloands Road, Leominster, UK: Day One Publications, 2010 (63 pages).

\*Newheiser, Jim. Help! Someone I Love Has Been Abused.

\*Pryde, Debi. Why Me, Lord? Help for Women Who Have Been Sexually Molested. Newberry Springs, CA: Iron Sharpeneth Iron Publications, 2012 (54 pages).

### SUFFERING

\*Berg, Jim. When Trouble Comes. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2001 (79 pages).

\*Keller, Phillip. A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970 (142 pages).

Talbert, Layton. Beyond Suffering: Discovering the Message of Job. Greenville, SC: BJU Press, 2007 (378 pages).

Assessment of all assignments will be based upon BTS's general assessment rubric.

**GRADING CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT RUBRIC**

A to A-	B to B-	C to C-	D to D-
Correct spelling and grammar/punctuation	Minor errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation	Multiple errors in spelling or grammar/punctuation per page	Difficult to read due to English writing errors
Smooth writing that provides for effective and efficient reading	Writing is acceptable, but not as organized and coherent	Writing is not smooth, sometimes confusing and inconsistent	Writing lacks clarity, focus, structure, and is incoherent
Person and format are proper for assignment	Person and format are inconsistent	Person and format are not appropriate	Person and format are totally inappropriate
Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriately used, cited, and clearly supports main argument	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are appropriate but need more depth and use of critical thinking	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are inadequate for main argument and do not reflect understanding	Scripture, paraphrases, quotes, and summaries are improperly used, over used, under used, or cited in error
Paper completely conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper generally conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper somewhat conforms to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>	Paper does not conform to Turabian's <i>Manual for Writers</i>

## BTS Outcomes Evaluation

Please rank each outcome on a scale of 1-5

**1: this outcome is not covered in this class**

**2: this outcome is only touched on in this class**

**3: this outcome is discussed in conjunction with class material**

**4: this outcome lightly assessed as part of course assessment (one assignment)**

**5: this outcome is fully integrated into the assessment of this course (multiple assignments)**

1. Scripture: Students will effectively articulate the truth of Scripture and Scripture as truth, engaged with learning biblical knowledge and reformed principles of the supremacy of Scripture as God's word.
2. Reformed Theology: Students will be able to engage and reproduce the primary and essential elements of Reformed Theology.
3. Local Church: Students will be engaged in applied ministry projects in the local church
4. Wisdom: Students will grow in character; increasing in their demonstration of wisdom and its fruits.
5. Discipleship: Students will be able to understand and articulate the nature and importance of discipleship—both ordinary (means of grace) and extraordinary (biblical counseling).
6. Communication: Students will grow in the efficacy of their communication (articulation, teaching/speaking, and preaching—respective to various departments) both in content knowledge and rhetorical strategies.
7. Worldview: Students will demonstrate a growing ability to apply God's word to all spheres of life, evidenced through class discussion and other assigned assessments.
8. Leadership: Students will grow in their understanding of godly leadership and ability to lead others in service of the local church.

Outcome	Rank	Rational (one sentence)
Scripture	5	Essential for biblical counseling.
Reformed Theology	5	The course is taught from this perspective.
Local Church	3	Students will practice application through Basic Knowledge Assessments.
Wisdom	5	Students will wisely discern from the completion of assignments.
Discipleship	5	Assignments teach discipleship as primary for biblical counseling.
Communication	5	Class participation and assignments encourage growth in communication.
Worldview	5	Class participation and assignments encourage biblical application.
Leadership	3	Discussion about leadership is a part of the course.



## Appendix

### Case # 1 of Judy and Jerry

Judy and Jerry are recent converts. They visited your church on a Sunday morning. That afternoon, an elder and his wife visited with them to welcome them to the church and ask how the church might be of service to them. They shared their drug abuse background and desire for a different kind of life. They visited the church, hoping to discover a pathway forward.

Your elder congratulated them on their decisions and led them in an evangelistic conversation that resulted in both confessing their sin, readily expressing repentance, and without being modeled a sinner's prayer, bowed their heads and, while holding hands, each expressed to the Lord a desire to receive His salvation.

They have become enthusiastic attendees at SS, worship, and Wednesday night dinners, and Jerry attending Men of the Covenant. Now, 90 days later, they come to you for counseling. Judy's mother has reported them to DHR because of their radical lifestyle change, including introducing the discipline of the children with an occasional spanking, which convinced her mother they had joined a cult and had begun abusing the children.

The visit from a DHR female worker, who admitted to being an atheist and highly suspicious of churches that "interfered" with family functioning, informed them that she recommended removing the children from the home until they completed DHR-prescribed counseling.

What will you counsel?

How will you instruct them to handle the situation immediately?

What cautions will you extend?

What spiritual and practical hope will you extend?

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### Case #2 Maryjane

Maryjane explains that she is being harassed by the Session of her old church, who are under the spell of her ex-husband. The church is in your Presbytery, and you have had concerns about the pastor for several years. There is insufficient evidence to propose an investigation or to bring charges heretofore. You check your internal attitude—OK, this is my chance to root this guy out.

How will you counsel Maryjane?

How will you counsel yourself?

Will you see an attorney's advice?

Will you recommend that she employ counsel at this time?

Since she has applied for membership at your church and her previous church refused to answer a Session member's request for transfer, will you inform the Session of this development?

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### Case #3 Susan

Susan has filed a sexual harassment suit against the church because she was relieved of all contact with children in the church after her Facebook posting indicating that she was finally free in the Lord and ready to go public with her being convinced that she is gay, and God says that is OK.

Obviously, you will engage an attorney since she filed the suit.

What will be your concern regarding your church's documents—incorporation, bylaws, and employment (especially since you are a non-denominational church)?

Where will you turn to garner the appropriate defense lawyer?

Will you immediately contact your liability insurance carrier?

Now, change rolls for the moment. You are not the pastor but the Biblical Counselor in the next city 20 miles down the road. This pastor comes to you as a basket case. How will you counsel him?

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#### **Case: # 4 Your harassment charge**

You are going about your business. You plan to attend the Presbytery meeting on the first Tuesday in August. You just returned yesterday from a three-week mission trip in the depths of the Amazon jungle. Your first email at 6 a.m. contains the docket; you are immediately filled with fear. Elder Dick Jones had filed formal charges against you for sexual harassment because you counseled his wife's best friend to submit to her abusive husband when you were perfectly aware of his tyranny.

Do you need an advocate at Presbytery?

Do you need an attorney at Presbytery?

You sit at your computer and outline your defense strategy to go before your church court. What will you say, do, or refuse to do?