



Biblical Counselling UK

# Talking Church

How personal conversations  
grow local congregations

Mon 21 – Wed 23 March 2022



## SESSION 2

Church talks:  
communities where  
conversation matters

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# It's good to talk in the local church ...

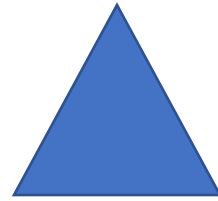
- Talk ... because we have needed to hear
- Talk ... because other people need to hear
- Talk ... because it honours God (or, it can!)

*<sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)*



# Some churches find talking easier than others

Under share → Biblical share ← Over share



Catch the vision ...



# One-anothering conversations

- serve one another
- forgive one another
- teach one another
- admonish one another
- spur one another on
- offer hospitality to one another
- be devoted to one another
- honour one another
- love one another
- accept one another
- instruct one another
- greet one another
- agree with one another
- encourage one another
- speak to one another with psalms hymns and songs
- submit to one another
- bear with one another

**In all aspects of church  
life**



# How do we grow a culture of conversation?

- Save?
- School?
- Stir-up?
- Serve ...

Walk through an interactive process. With a spot of Colossians. In ways that set us up for going back home and serve our church well, as it grows in conversation.

PLEASE watch the time as we go!



# Knowing your starting point

- Love ... God
- Love ... your church
- Love ... your community

*<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people — <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. (Colossians 1:3-6)*



## Pray with your neighbour

1. Share some of the wonderful ways your church engages in conversation well
2. Spend a moment praying and praising God for your local congregation



# Knowing your church

- Understand ... the age and stage
- Understand ... the context, capacity and team
- Understand ... the opportunities and threats

*<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Colossians 2:8)*





## Discuss with your neighbour

1. To what extent is your church ready for change in this area?
2. What are some of the circumstances that will impact growth in conversation?



# Knowing your goal

- Desire ... unity
- Desire ... Christ
- Desire ... what is beautiful

*My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Colossians 2:2-3)*



## Discuss openly

1. Given the call, and being realistic about the context, what is your dream for you church (in regard to growing a culture of speaking to one another well)?



# Knowing yourself

- Be aware ... of your heart
- Be aware ... of your circumstances, gifts and personality
- Be aware ... of your role

*<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup> I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness (Colossians 1:24-25)*



## Reflect silently

1. What is your role is helping your church grow? (And what isn't your role?)
2. What would need to change (in you) for you to undertake that role well?



# Knowing your methods

- Show ... through structure
- Show ... through courses – for all, for some
- Show ... through teaching (Jonny)
- Show ... through events (Sharon)
- Show ... through networking (Sophie)
- Show ... through role-modelling (Del)
- Show ... through mission (Morgan)

*<sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. (Colossians 1:28-29)*



## Discuss with your neighbour

1. What method(s) might be appropriate for the next step towards growth in conversations for your church?



# Knowing your limits

- A time for ... silence
- A time for ... waiting
- A time for ... “just” praying

An unexpected journey!

*<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 2:2)*





# Concluding thoughts

- Conversation matters
- A culture of conversation grows slowly
- A culture of conversation needs us to act wisely – but growing it is exciting!

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12-14)*

