



Counselling in the Local Church Syllabus

Lecturers	Steve Midgley & Helen Thorne
Recitation Instructor	<p>You will be assigned a Recitation Instructor (RI) from Biblical Counselling UK who will grade your assignments and field questions about the assignments.</p> <p>You can contact your RI through your Canvas inbox.</p> <p>Your RI will contact you at the start of term to let you know the days during the week where he or she will be available to respond to your email inquiries.</p>
Tutor	<p>Your course tutor will lead the fortnightly seminars and help guide you through the material presented by Steve and Helen and address questions and concerns.</p> <p>You can contact your Tutor through your Canvas inbox.</p>
Administration	For queries about course access, withdrawals, requests to take final exams early, and extensions over 7 days, please contact Biblical Counselling UK Course Administration – courses@biblicalcounselling.org.uk
Canvas	Canvas hosts your course materials (videos, audio files, course documents) and enables you to communicate with your RI and the other students in your class. Assignments should always be submitted through Canvas.
Technical Queries	For help with common problems, please see ‘Technical information and troubleshooting’ within the Student Orientation material on your Canvas dashboard. If you cannot resolve your difficulty, please contact Biblical Counselling UK Course Administration – courses@biblicalcounselling.org.uk .
Course Programme	You are expected to watch the assigned video(s) and listen to the podcast each week (approximately 2 – 3 hours), complete the reading and submit assignments as listed in this course syllabus.
Sharing & Copyright	<p>All materials provided to you for this course through Canvas are copyrighted by BCUK, CCEF or other publishers, to whom we pay a fee for their use. These materials include the course syllabus, assignments, articles, and video/audio lectures and recordings. You may not reproduce or share any of these materials without prior permission from Biblical Counselling UK.</p> <p>As an exception to this policy, CCEF allow students to share up to 10 copies of <i>Journal of Biblical Counseling (JBC)</i> articles from the course for use in their personal ministry. Examples of this would include sharing an article with a counselee, spouse, friend or small group. This is strictly limited to <i>JBC</i> articles. If you wish to share a <i>JBC</i> resource with more than 10 people, you will need to make an application via the permissions page on the CCEF website.</p>

Course Objectives

Biblical counselling – what will it look like when biblical counselling is established in the ministry of a local church?

The purpose of this course is:

- to enable students to better understand the nature and purpose of church
- to help students understand the nature of biblical counselling and its development over the centuries
- to equip students to understand their ministry context and see opportunities for biblical counselling to flourish
- to envision students with a range of ways in which biblical counselling could be embedded in their local church
- to see the importance of both public and private ministry of the Word and how they inter-relate
- to help students to play a part in growing a culture of care in their local congregation
- to encourage students to engage in biblical counselling in ways that are safe, collaborative and wise

Required Reading

Books

- *Caring for One Another* by Edward T Welch (Crossway, 2018)
- *Relationships: a mess worth making* by Timothy S. Lane, Paul David Tripp (New Growth Press, 2006)

Articles/excerpts

The content listed below can be found in Canvas in the week in which the readings are due. JBC refers to the *Journal of Biblical Counseling*. All content is used by permission and copyright fees paid where applicable.

- *A Familial Approach to Confidentiality in the Church* by Steve Midgley (JBC 31:3 (2017))
- *Biblical Counseling in Local Churches and Parachurch Ministries* by David Powlison and Heath Lambert (JBC 33:2 (2019))
- *God's New Community* by Graham Beynon, Chapter 9 (Painting a Picture) (IVP, 2013)¹
- *How to build a gospel culture in your church* by Ray Ortlund
- *Puritan resources for biblical counselling* by Tim Keller
- *Something worth meeting for – a biblical vision for small groups* by Steve Midgley (JBC 28:3 (2014))
- *The Pastor as Counselor* by David Powlison (JBC 26:1 (2012))
- *Walking alongside hurting friends* by Helen Thorne

¹ © Graham Beynon 2005, Reproduced with permission of the Licensor through PLSclear

- *What is your calling* by David Powlison

Course Schedule

Week One	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 1: Introduction (part 1) • Lecture 2: Introduction (part 2) • Conversation: Talking about your church <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Counselling in and out, with Ste Casey <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Walking alongside hurting friends</i> by Helen Thorne <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project – choosing an area of ministry
Week Two	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 3: What is the church for? A community for mission and evangelism • Lecture 4: What is the church for? A community for blessing. A community for all • Conversation: Praying for your church <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Counselling across cultures, with Abigail Baah <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>God's New Community</i> by Graham Beynon, ch.9 <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structures of pastoral care
Week Three	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 5: History of pastoral care (part 1) • Lecture 6: History of pastoral care (part 2) • Conversation: The difference between biblical counselling and psychology <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Puritan resources for biblical counselling</i> by Tim Keller

Week Four	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture 7: The recent history of biblical counselling (part 1)• Lecture 8: The recent history of biblical counselling (part 2)• Conversation: A vision for Biblical Counselling UK <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Caring for One Another</i> by Ed Welch, Preface & Lessons 1-4 (pp.9-41)• <i>How to build a gospel culture in your church</i> by Ray Ortlund <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry Project – planning involvement
Week Five	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture 9: Biblical counselling (problem-focused discipleship) in the life of the local church• Conversation: Identifying your gifts <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview: Pastoring as a shepherd, with Mike Warren <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Caring for One Another</i> by Edward T Welch, Lessons 5-8 (pp.43-71)• <i>The Pastor as Counselor</i> by David Powlison
Week Six	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lecture 10: Biblical counselling in the life of the local church – practical implications (part 1)• Lecture 11: Biblical counselling in the life of the local church – practical implications (part 2)• Conversation: Biblical counselling for men and women <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview: Growing a pastoral ministry team, with Allan Beckett <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Relationships: a mess worth making</i> by Lane and Tripp (ch.1-4) <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring gifts

Week Seven	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 12: Counselling structures in the local church – understanding your church (part 1) • Lecture 13: Counselling structures in the local church – understanding your church (part 2) <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Parachurch counselling, with David Armstrong <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Relationships: a mess worth making</i> by Lane and Tripp (ch.5-8) <p><i>Submit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project – self reflection
Week Eight	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 14: Counselling structures in the local church – announced structures (part 1) • Lecture 15: Counselling structures in the local church – announced structures (part 2) <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Small groups and pastoral care, with Santhosh Thomas <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Relationships: a mess worth making</i> by Lane and Tripp (ch.9-11) • <i>Something worth meeting for – a biblical vision for small groups</i> by Steve Midgley
Week Nine	<p><i>Watch</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 16: Church culture and pastoral care – the problems • Lecture 17: Church culture and pastoral care – effecting change • Conversation: Preaching to the heart <p><i>Listen</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Transforming coffee time, with Susannah Padiachy <p><i>Read</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Relationships: a mess worth making</i> by Lane and Tripp (ch.12-15)

Week Ten	<i>Watch</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 18: Walking alongside people wisely (part 1) • Lecture 19: Walking alongside people wisely (part 2) • Conversation: Guarding your heart
	<i>Read</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Familial Approach to Confidentiality in the Church</i> by Steve Midgley
	<i>Submit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing boundaries in pastoral care
Week Eleven	<i>Watch</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 20: Concluding topics • Lecture 21: Concluding topics continued • Conversation: Perseverance
	<i>Listen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Peer supervision, with Alison Woods
	<i>Read</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Biblical Counseling in Local Churches and Parachurch Ministries</i> by Powlison and Lambert
	<i>Submit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry Project - analysis
Week Twelve	<i>Watch</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture 22: Walking alongside those with complex needs • Lecture 23: Conclusion: The future development of biblical counselling • Conversation: Loving your pastor well
	<i>Listen</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview: Taking the next step, with Caroline Poole
	<i>Submit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final paper

Assignments

Throughout the course, students will be required to submit assignments for assessment to receive a grade. To find instructions for the assignments, please see the assignment in Canvas.

Assignment Weighting

Ministry Project – choosing an area of ministry	0%
Structures of pastoral care	10%
Ministry Project – planning involvement	0%
Exploring gifts	10%
Ministry Project – self-reflection	10%
Managing boundaries in pastoral care	10%
Ministry Project – analysis	30%
Final Paper	25%
Seminar Attendance	5%

Assignment Format

- All papers/projects should be double-spaced, typed in 12-point font, (Times New Roman, Calibri or Cambria) with 2.5cm margins
- Papers should be submitted with a doc or docx file extensions
- Assignments must be uploaded on Canvas by the deadline
- Pay careful attention to the instructions in Canvas about the required length of each assignment – this may be given in pages and/or word count.
- Type your name and word count at the top of the first page of your assignments. (Your name does not count towards word count, nor do footnotes, if used.)
- You may lose marks for not keeping to these guidelines.
- The assignments for the module are listed in this syllabus.

Grading

There are two main reasons for providing grades for your work in the Certificate Course. The first is to provide some feedback about how you have done. We trust it helps to have a sense of the standard of your work and changes that may happen over time. The second purpose is to provide some measure of accountability. Taking a course for credit challenges you to put in the time and effort needed to produce good quality thinking and work. All of our lives and all our ministry depends upon growing wisdom. We trust getting grades is one way of helping encourage us toward the effort that is needed for that growth.

Yet grading brings dangers too – it can foster a sense of competitiveness or a fear of failure. So do be praying for godly attitudes. It may help to remember that humility and a willingness to admit ignorance and a desire to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and love (James 1:5; Matt. 5:3) are hallmarks of authentic faith.

In many ways grading is simply a means of helping you maintain the ambitions that led you to register in the first place.

Grade Scheme

Grade Letter	Percentage Score	Grade Definition		
A	85% – 100%	Excellent to Outstanding	PASS	
A-	70%-84%			
B+	66% – 69%	Good to Very Good		
B	63% - 65%			
B-	60%- 62%			
C+	55% – 59%	Satisfactory		
C	50% - 54%			
C-	40% – 49%	Sufficient		
D	35% – 39%	Unsatisfactory		FAIL
E	30% - 34%			
F	0 – 29%	Unsatisfactory		

Late Assignments

Assignments that are late will have 10 points deducted for every day that they are late, and will be graded “0” after one week.

Requests for Extensions

Policies: Please refer to the BC UK Student Handbook (available in the Course Information section on Canvas) regarding policies for granting late assignments and extensions.

- Extensions will not be granted for holidays or previously planned events.
- To request an extension for up to 7 days**, contact your RI through the Canvas platform 48 hours before the deadline, stating the reason for your extension request and how long an extension you are asking for.

3. **To request an extension longer than 7 days**, email courses@biblicalcounselling.org.uk before the deadline, stating:
1. The module you are taking and your RI
 2. The assignment for which you are requesting an extension
 3. The due date for this paper or project
 4. The reason for your extension request

The course administrator will respond within two working days of your request and inform your RI.

Course Administration

The Student Handbook details policies, procedures, and administration of the Certificate Course, and information that is relevant to all modules, including grading standards and academic policies.

The Student Handbook is located in the Course Resources section of your course material on Canvas.