

PREFACE

Pastoral care needs to have as its primary focus, the care of all God's people through the ups and downs of everyday life, the creation of caring environments within which all people can grow and develop to their fullest potential. Mathew 22:37 - 39 reminds one that pastoral counseling points toward a ministry of reconciliation with both God and neighbor.

This points toward the uniqueness of Biblically based interventions, in a world where almost every religion exercises pastoral counseling from the perspective of that religion.

INTRODUCTION

A sign in a convenience store read, "Check Cashing Policy: To err is human. To forgive, \$10." It's a funny way to recognize the fact that we make mistakes, but it's also evidence of the way many people think about forgiveness.

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This is what God has done for us: "...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by

tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. " What did God give for your forgiveness? It wasn't money or anything of wealth or value in worldly terms. He gave His Son. Jesus took upon Himself the burden of our sins.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The course is divided into two lessons, which can be taught over eight parts:

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To properly and pastorally address restoring relationships and forgiveness.
2. To be able to pastorally converse.
3. To introduce tools that will help facilitate the pastoral conversation into said conversation.
4. To introduce the student to basic problem areas as commonly encountered in the Pastorate.
5. To introduce the student to the fundamentals of Biblically based Pastoral Counseling.
6. Explore the concept of Pastoral Counseling as an expression of missionary work.
7. To equip the student with a working knowledge and ability to demonstrate empathy, compassion and understanding.
8. To translate academia into practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Know this study guide well.

2. Complete the Bible study exercises on each mentioned Scripture.
3. Complete the assignments at the end of each lesson.
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BENEFITS OF THIS COURSE

1. Understand forgiveness.
2. Restore relationships.
3. Participate in the pastoral conversation.
4. Understand the fundamentals of Biblically based Pastoral Counseling.
5. Have a foundation to further studies in Pastoral Counseling.
6. Understand the pastoral dynamics of common problem areas.
7. Understand the parameters of Pastoral Counseling as a discipline.
8. Demonstrate understanding of pastoral care as a ministry in the church.
9. Engage in pastoral care in relation to personal salvation.
10. Comprehend empathy, compassion and understanding.
11. To demonstrate an ability to use empathy, compassion and understanding.