

PsychoHeresy Awareness Letter

November-December 2018

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Dear Co-Laborers,

As we complete our 26th year of PsychoHeresy Awareness Ministries, we are thankful to God for giving us the opportunity to shed a ray of light into the darkness of what we call psychoheresy.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will remove the shroud of deception from believers' eyes so that they will see that God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit ministered to one another in the body of Christ are what believers need, rather than the wisdom of men found in the psychological counseling notions and practices.

God has enabled us to have a website with numerous articles as well as free ebooks of our past writings, which are even more relevant today than when they were first written, as the voluminous increase in psychoheresy is clouding more minds than ever before. Please pray that more individuals will find the site and avail themselves of the information.

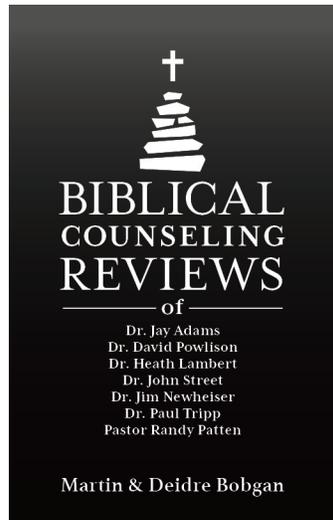
We are sincerely grateful to those of you who have been standing with us in prayer and support. Indeed, what is needed most is prayer that God will open eyes to the fact that psychological counseling theories and therapies are a deceptive religion posing as science. They not only undermine a believer's walk, but they are at enmity against God, Himself.

Praise God that He will eliminate all such error in the end.

Martin & Deidre Bobgan

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NEW BOOK: *Biblical Counseling Reviews*



Biblical Counseling Reviews of Dr. Jay Adams, Dr. David Powlison, Dr. Heath Lambert, Dr. John Street, Dr. Jim Newheiser, Dr. Paul Tripp, and Pastor Randy Patten reveals that the best examples of biblical counseling done by some of the foremost leaders of the biblical counseling movement (BCM) have grave biblical errors. We have repeatedly said that the undoing of the biblical counseling movement does not primarily come from their teachings, but from their practices and presentations of actual counseling when examined with the Bible. This book is an exposé of what seven of the recognized leaders and teachers of biblical counseling actually do in counseling and why believers should shun their counseling conversations.

In 1985 Moody Press published our book titled *How to Counsel from Scripture*.² At that time we were an active part of the biblical counseling movement. However, after discovering what those in the biblical counseling movement were actually doing during their counseling, we departed from the

movement. That was many years ago! At the time we asked Moody Press to put the book out of print, because we could no longer recommend it in the various ways it supported the BCM.

As we looked more deeply into the movement we could see that it incorporated the same kinds of sin-saturated conversations as the psychological counseling movement. To explain our concerns and the reasons for departing from the BCM, we wrote *Against "Biblical Counseling": For the Bible*.³

Since then we have extensively written material revealing that the literal counseling conducted by the leaders of the BCM fails when examined biblically. The chapters in this book expose the veiled truth that the leaders of the three generations of biblical counselors are in biblical error as they have imbibed from the polluted streams of psychological counseling in their integration, eclecticism, and pragmatism.

There is some excellent biblical material in the various biblical counseling manuals, books, and certificate and degree programs. However, we repeat: the major undoing of the biblical counseling movement is found in their literal counseling and case studies. It is their Achilles heel! **The good biblical material is undone by their live counseling, which reveals what they actually do.** However, many of the cases they describe in their writings lack the real conversations and dialogues that typically go on in biblical counseling.

There are thousands of biblical counseling books, videos, and audios, but **not many have literal cases with detailed dialogue. The best way to recognize the unbiblical nature of**

(continued on page 3)

Letters

from



our

Readers

Martin & Deidre

Thanks for the references. I followed them. As I looked through *Person to Person Ministry*, pp. 117+, I was again impressed with the role gossip plays in “counseling.” I’ve experienced it, and it’s bitter. God’s blessings. Iowa

Dear Martin & Deidre,

This Sept-Oct 2018 newsletter is outstanding. The “Elyse Fitzpatrick: Sex Counselor” piece reminds us again how deeply the church has fallen into the pit of secularism and even what’s called political correctness. That grown women would even be interested in such worthlessness and laughing at the “Happy birthday” sex joke is quite pathetic. (I do believe it was Marilyn Monroe who sang it to President Kennedy.)

Also Bruce Davidson’s piece gets to the heart & core of things. One could weep tears (and I do) for the miserable folly of psychoheresy and its inroads into the thinking of Christians. Sexual anarchy rears its ugly head in the visible church. May our Christ Jesus keep His precious “invisible” church faithful, courageous and strong in the spiritual battle surrounding us.

Plus your own “Death of a Culture” piece. Again: basic reading for everyone, especially those who seek to mend the wounds secularism and godlessness encourage. Michigan

Bobgans,

About 10 years ago our Baptist pastor gave us a book called *When Risqué Is OK*, describing how to perform certain unnatural sex acts to please husbands. We left the church. Oregon

Good afternoon Bobgans:

Just read “Sex Obsession and Psychotherapism: The Culprit is Not the Cure” [PAL, Sept-Oct, 2018] and wanted to alert you to an excellent reference regarding the Franz-Meade “study.” Read “The Fatal Hoaxing of Margaret Meade” by Derek Freeman, Westview. It gives a very clear and concise history and explanation of the entire hoax.

Wyoming

Martin and Deidre,

Three decades wasted traveling through the revolving door of counseling has produced little more than a disdain for the profession and the destruction it often causes. I shudder to think that I almost fell into its clutches. One more test and I would have been a counselor profiting from the deceit. The title Christian counselor is an oxymoron, as counseling itself is a competing religion with Christianity, a profession which has hijacked a smattering of the Bible to add credibility to its corruption.

Had I known God in 1978 and been able to turn to the Bible then, my life “would” have been dramatically different and I never would have wasted so much time or money on counselors.

Pennsylvania

Dear Bobgans,

I’m so thankful for all the years of your ministry. I’ve been blessed with all your writings. I’ve been passing on your books to Christians. One young fellow who is now 40 and is an elder now passes them on to his pastor. God’s Word and truth go on and on and don’t return. I appreciate your hard work over the years and your patient endurance is lovely. Love you heaps. New Zealand

To whom it may concern,

Please change my address. Thank you for the valuable insights you provide on an increasing danger in society and the church. I studied psychology

(not counseling psychology, but psychological research mainly on human development and marketing), but even as a college Freshman in 1985 I recognized how incompatible it was with Christianity when applied to therapy situations. It took years to identify specific problems, but your newsletter has helped me articulate what I’ve “felt” for years. Washington

Bobgans,

Thanks for your newsletters. I was introduced to your site from a friend. They were concerned because I have regularly had Christian counseling. I have discontinued that practice. email

Dear P.A.M.,

I always enjoy getting your newsletter. Do keep me on your mailing list. Love your ministry! California

Thank you for writing to us. We read every letter, even though we are not able to answer each one personally.



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Unless otherwise indicated, articles are written by Martin and Deidre Bobgan.

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Biblical Counseling Reviews (continued from page 1)

biblical counseling is to read or hear and evaluate available literal, live (not simply playacted) counseling by using biblical standards. There one can see and hear how the counseling problems are discussed and what sinful conversations are actually involved. They are similar to psychological counseling in that they are heavily problem-centered in the most unbiblical ways and often involve sinful speaking.

In this book we critically review what the leaders of the BCM actually do in their counseling to demonstrate that **what they do is definitely and decisively NOT entirely biblical!** The chapter on Adams, who founded the movement, and the chapters on other recognized leaders who followed him will show how unbiblical they truly are as they actually counsel individuals.

Dr. Jay Adams

The Institute for Nouthetic Studies states that “Dr. Adams is the founder of the modern biblical counseling movement and is the author of the groundbreaking book *Competent to Counsel*. He is also the founder of the Institute for Nouthetic Studies (INS), the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors (NANC), and the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (CCEF).”²⁴ Adams has written over one hundred books, which have been translated into sixteen different languages.

In his book *Competent to Counsel*, Adams reveals that he worked one summer under Dr. O Hobart Mowrer, who was a research professor of psychology. Adams says:

During the summer of 1965 we worked in two state mental institutions, one at Kankakee, Illinois, and the other at Galesburg, Illinois. In these two mental institutions, we conducted group therapy with Mowrer for seven hours a day. Along with five others, I flew with

him, drove with him, ate with him five days a week. I learned much during that time, and while today I certainly would not classify myself as a member of Mowrer’s school, I feel that the summer program was **a turning point in my thinking.**⁵ (Bold added.)

The turning point in Adams’s thinking resulted in the adaptation of the psychological counseling model in which sinful, problem-centered conversations become the means of cure. Adams’s psychological counseling model then became the gold standard for all the biblical counseling that followed.

Biblical counselors precipitate the sinful expressions of Jeremiah 17:9 as they probe for problems, dig for details, and thereby conduct counselees into sinning with their tongues....

Mowrer was a behaviorist and past president of the American Psychological Association, and his counseling conversations influenced Adams both in content and orientation. Adams’s pre- and post-Mowrer experiences led him to retrofit psychological problem-centered counseling conversations, which depended on data gathering, prying, and probing, which provoke sinful speaking, into what he named “nouthetic counseling.”

Transparency

The sinful content of biblical counseling arises from Adams’s exposure to the kind of counseling that calls for transparency. Self-exposure during counseling has become a psychotherapeutic necessity. Adams’s use of the psychological format of transparency came out of what he experienced with O. Hobart Mowrer in 1965. The 1960s saw the rise of the encounter movement

based on theories and techniques of group dynamics.

The encounter movement, as experienced by Adams under Mowrer, was a huge leap into the public undressing of persons in front of as many others as happen to be in the group. One of the basic assumptions of most encounter groups is that it is emotionally beneficial to be totally transparent and open. In other words, “let it all hang out,” meaning to be completely candid and straightforward, saying whatever you want and condemning whomever you wish, without any need to prove anything.

Transparency leads to deceptive feelings of intimacy, especially when the sharing majors on personal struggles with temptations and behaviors the Bible would label as sin. Such exposure can be very enticing with its focus on self. It is like a big story-telling session all about me, myself, and I and everyone else involved in my life. Sharing biased stories engenders emotional involvement in group, family, couple, and individual therapy. The therapeutic necessity of sharing personal sins and the “sins” of others is the foundation on which the sinful conversations of counseling rest, where self is center and sinful speaking of others is accepted and expected.

Learning the techniques for encouraging transparency in encounter groups influenced Adams’s thinking. Thus, for Adams, self-exposure became a therapeutic absolute in the formation of his nouthetic counseling and set the gold standard for biblical counseling from *Competent to Counsel* in 1970 to this day. The biblical counseling movement (BCM) is predicated on Adams’s gold standard of transparency and most all counselors today follow this same sin-saturated method of counseling.

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Ψ Psych Notes

Psych Notes are selected from numerous articles from professional journals and other publications. The ones used are chosen for their possible interest to readers, but not necessarily because this ministry recommends them.

What is Christian Psychology?

“The Christian Association for Psychological Studies (CAPS) is a group that includes psychologists and psychological counselors who are professing Christians. At one of their meetings the following was said:

“We are often asked if we are ‘Christian psychologists’ and find it difficult to answer since we don’t know what the question implies. We are Christians who are psychologists but at the present time there is no acceptable Christian psychology that is markedly different from non-Christian psychology. It is difficult to imply that we function in a manner that is fundamentally distinct from our non-Christian colleagues ... as yet there is not an acceptable theory, mode of research or treatment methodology that is distinctly Christian.

“Although Christian psychological counselors claim to have taken only those elements of psychology that fit with Christianity, anything can appear to be made to fit the Bible, no matter how silly or even satanic it is. Christian therapists individually bring their own combination of psychological theories and therapies they have borrowed from the world to the Bible and rationalize their use with the Word. What they use comes from the bankrupt systems of ungodly and unscientific theories and techniques” (excerpted from Bobgan, *PsychoHeresy*, Revised & Expanded. EastGate Publishers, 2012, pp. 28-29).

“The Art of ‘Selling’ Therapy”

“When clients call for a consultation or come in for a first appointment, an underlying question, often unstated, always shapes what happens: is there a good fit between what I’m looking for—relief from anxiety and depression, for example—and what you have to offer?... However we may resist the idea, we’re in the therapy business, and the reality is that our initial contact with clients represents the same challenge faced by salespeople seeking to turn shoppers into satisfied customers. What good, responsible salespeople know is that their job [is] to assess people’s needs and show them the match with what they have to offer.

“But how do you do it? Here are some steps to help you make a good sales pitch. **1. Understand their vision.... 2. Find out what they expect.... 3. Reflect back what you heard.... 4. Attend to nonverbal cues and verbal subtleties.... 5. Make your pitch....**

“6. Summarize and close the deal. You can start this step by saying, “I feel like we’re on the same page. Do you?” If you don’t get a solid “yes”—or if you hear a hesitant “yeah, I think so”—then back up. On the other hand, if you do get a firm, positive response, you can lay out the next step. You can talk about a six-session commitment, copays, homework assignments, or what you’d like to focus on in the next session” (excerpted from “The Art of ‘Selling’ Therapy,” *Psychotherapy Networker* blog, 8/17/18, <https://www.psychotherapynetworker.org/blog/details/555/the-art-of-selling-therapy>).

400 Psychotherapy Referrals Needed?

“The therapy approach chosen, the length of treatment, and the methodologies employed will depend, to a large extent, on economic realities.... A therapist with a large turnover might require more than four hundred new referrals every year just to survive, whereas another

clinician could get by quite comfortably with ten or twelve” (excerpted from Jeffrey A. Kottler. *On Being a Therapist*, Fourth Edition. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2010, p. 120).

The Personality Brokers

“The Myers-Briggs type indicator is the most popular personality test in the world. It is used regularly by Fortune 500 companies, universities, hospitals, churches, and the military. Its language of personality types—extraversion and introversion, sensing and intuiting, thinking and feeling, judging and perceiving—has inspired television shows, online dating platforms, and *BuzzFeed* quizzes. Yet despite the test’s widespread adoption, experts in the \$2 billion industry of psychometric testing have struggled to validate its results—no less account for its success. How did Myers-Briggs, a homegrown multiple-choice questionnaire, infiltrate our workplaces, our relationships, our Internet, our lives?

“First conceived in the 1920s by the mother-daughter team of Katherine Briggs and Isabel Briggs Myers, a pair of devoted homemakers, novelists, and amateur psychoanalysts, the test was designed to bring the gospel of Carl Jung to the masses. But it would take on a life entirely its own, reaching from the smoke-filled boardrooms of midcentury New York to Berkeley, California, where it was administered to some of the twentieth century’s greatest creative minds. It would travel across the world to London, Zurich, Cape Town, Melbourne, and Tokyo until it could be found just as easily in elementary schools, nunneries, and wellness retreats as in shadowy political consultancies and on social networks.

“Drawing from original reporting and never-before-published documents, *The Personality Brokers* takes a critical look at the personality indicator that became a cultural icon. Along the way it examines nothing less than the definition of the self—our attempts to grasp, cat-

(continued on page 5)

Psych Notes (continued from page 4)
 egorize, and quantify our personalities. Surprising and absorbing, the book, like the test at its heart, considers the timeless question “What makes you, you?” (excerpted from Merve Emre, *The Personality Brokers*. New York: Doubleday, 2018, dust jacket).

“Digital Divide”

“Modern technology provides us with a world of information at our fingertips and helps us easily keep in touch with family and friends who are miles away. But if you feel that cell phone use and social media have plenty of downsides, too, there is new research to support your point of view. A study presented recently at the 2018 American Psychological Association conference found that even modest use of digital technology over time can make a person distracted, drained, and distant. Researchers examining how technology use affects relationships noted, for example, that minor cell phone use during dinner with friends makes people distracted and less present in the moment. Spending time on a cell phone in social settings also tended to make the experience less enjoyable. This is a concern, given that many previous studies have repeatedly described the mental and physical health benefits of personal engagement with friends and relatives.

“Another aspect of the new study found that compassionate people spend less time on social media than people who are more self-centered and narcissistic. Likewise, people who have difficulty identifying, describing, and processing their emotions tend to use social media much more than people who are in touch with their emotions. Researchers suggest that part of the reason for this difference is that people who are less comfortable with their own emotions or with others’ emotions may prefer text-based interactions, which allow them time to process social and emotional

information.” (“Digital Divide: Tech Makes Us Drained and Disconnected,” *Mind, Mood & Memory*, Vol. 14, No. 10, p. 1, used with permission).

Cognitive Ability Test

“MoCA [Montreal Cognitive Assessment] is a 10-minute test designed to be administered by a healthcare provider who has been properly trained to use it. The test assesses a range of cognitive skills, including attention, concentration, executive functions, memory, language, calculation ability and conceptual thinking. Among the tasks people who take the test are asked to perform are:

- Drawing a clock showing a certain time
- Identifying drawings of three animals (a lion, a rhino, and a camel)
- Recalling a list of five words (face, velvet, church, daisy, red)
- Putting a list of digits in the proper ascending and descending numerical order
- Copying a drawing of a three dimensional cube
- Counting back from 100 by sevens
- Repeating two sentences verbatim
- Naming as many words as possible that begin with the letter “F” in one minute (naming 11 or more gets a top score)

“After a patient answers the questions, the provider calculates a score. A perfect score is 30. but a score of 26 or above is considered normal. Lower scores are associated with possible cognitive impairment” (excerpted from “‘Trumping’ a Test of Cognitive Ability,” *Health after 50*, July 2018, p. 3).

The “Alzheimer’s Germ”

“Dr. Leslie Norins is willing to hand over \$1 million of his own money to anyone who can clarify something: Is Alzheimer’s disease, the most common form of dementia worldwide, caused by a germ? By “germ” he means microbes like bacteria, viruses, fungi and para-

sites. In other words, Norins, a physician turned publisher, wants to know if Alzheimer’s is infectious.

“It’s an idea that just a few years ago would’ve seemed to many an easy way to drain your research budget on bunk science. Money has poured into Alzheimer’s research for years, but until very recently not much of it went toward investigating infection in causing dementia.

“But this ‘germ theory’ of Alzheimer’s, as Norins calls it, has been fermenting in the literature for decades.... Dr. Alois Alzheimer, was integral in first describing the condition — noted a possible connection between the newly identified dementia and tuberculosis.

“If the germ theory gets traction, even in some Alzheimer’s patients, it could trigger a seismic shift in how doctors understand and treat the disease. For instance, would we see a day when dementia is prevented with a vaccine, or treated with antibiotics and antiviral medications?...

“After scouring the medical literature he noticed a pattern. ‘It appeared that many of the reported characteristics of Alzheimer’s disease were compatible with an infectious process.... I thought for sure this must have already been investigated, because millions and millions of dollars have been spent on Alzheimer’s research.’ But aside from scattered interest through the decades, this wasn’t the case....

“From a two-year review of the scientific literature, I believe it’s now clear that just one germ — identity not yet specified, and possibly not yet discovered — causes most AD. I’m calling it the “Alzheimer’s Germ” (excerpted from “Infectious Theory of Alzheimer’s Disease Draws Fresh Interest,” National Public Radio, <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/09/09/645629133/infectious-theory-of-alzheimers-disease-draws-fresh-interest>). 

Biblical Counseling Reviews (continued from page 3)

Problem-Centered Counseling

Because of the problem-centered conversations of both psychological and biblical counseling, the counselor will ask numerous questions to find out what the problems are and then ask further probing questions for clarification and detail. **Considering that counselors direct the counseling conversations through their questions, they are truly the instigators and enablers of the resulting sinful communication.** That does not excuse the participating counselees who are ready and eager to speak their minds (generally filled with sinful thoughts when one considers what is said).

Biblical counselors precipitate the sinful expressions of Jeremiah 17:9 as they probe for problems, dig for details, and thereby conduct counselees into sinning with their tongues in violation of many biblical prescriptions, proscriptions, admonitions, expectations, and warnings.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. (Jer. 17:9-10.)

Jeremiah 17:9 hearts contaminate problem-centered counseling as counselees are given free rein to talk about the sins of others not present, including unsubstantiated talebearing and hearsay, without being restricted, contradicted, or investigated. Because counseling is considered confidential, counselees may naturally skew their stories, which are generally filled with much unsubstantiated self-bias, gossip, and hearsay. In addition, the counselor's flesh may also be activated in a number of ways, particularly in the pride of being the wise one to counsel the needy one in the one-up/one-down counseling environment.⁶

Not only can counselors be self-deceived as far as their own importance in the lives of fellow believers, but **these seven counselors are sinning dreadfully by permitting and enabling others to sin through their speaking.** These counselors not only precipitate sinful communication through questions that elicit evil speaking; but they also provide a private place and an ear to hear corrupt conversations as they continue to pry and probe. Perhaps they would say that the end justifies the means, but when does God ask us to sin that grace may abound (Rom. 6:1)?

Such corrupt communication is a crucial component in the counseling of the seven significant leaders of the biblical counseling movement.

Corrupt Communication

Words are powerful and revealing. James describes the power of words in the human tongue:

If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.... And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.... But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (James 3:2b, 6, 8.)

Words can carry great destructive power. A few unkind words can ignite a battle between persons, groups, and countries. Words can be poison to the soul, both of the speaker and hearer. The fire kindled by the tongue can start with a spark of talebearing, which can lead to misunderstanding, ill feelings, acrimony, animosity, bitterness, and the destroying of other people's privacy to the point of growing into a wildfire.

However, **Bible verses that warn about the danger of the tongue were never used by the seven counselors to curb a counselee's communication during these counseling sessions. Neither did these seven counselors take the biblical responsibility to protect their counselees from violating biblical restraints on the tongue.**

How important is our conversation with one another? The Bible has much to say about how individuals are to communicate with each other. Jesus Himself taught about the serious significance of words:

But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. (Mat. 12:35-37.)

When people describe their problems as being communication problems, they are talking about talk—conversation—both speaking and listening. We are living in a day of unrestrained talk, much motivated by hurt feelings, anger, frustration, self-protection, victim mentality, and various sinful responses to circumstances and people. One book criticizes Americans as being *A Nation of Victims*⁷ and another book documents *A Narcissism Epidemic*⁸ running amok in the nation. How grievous to see how much of this is going on in much of the biblical counseling being practiced and promoted today.

The sinful heart of Jeremiah 17:9 can erupt in all forms corrupt communication that is sinful, depraved, evil, contaminating, harmful, obscene, or offensive and that would devalue another person. The Bible says: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). **However, such corrupt communication is a**

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crucial component in the counseling of the seven significant leaders of the biblical counseling movement.

Counseling is full of sinful, self-biased conversations when the natural man speaks from a deceptive heart (Jeremiah 17:9). The counseling environment will free the counselee to justify self, put self's desires and so-called needs high on the priority list, and distort truth, directly or indirectly. People generally do not think of themselves as being part of the reason for their interpersonal problems. Many directly or indirectly deny their own penchant for sin and overlook actual sins they have committed.

However, the Bible says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Therefore, there is much sinful self-deception in the counseling room, to the degree that the counselor will be hearing slanted tales. One has to wonder how counselors can really know what is truly going on with all the deception and self-deception on the part of both the counsees and the counselors. In fact, the more counselors dig for details, the more misinformation they will be receiving.

Conclusion

Such sin-saturated conversations did not originate from Scripture or from sound biblical teaching. They came from the sinful conversations of the psychological counseling movement as counselors followed the lead of Adams, who set the gold standard, which others followed. Instead of fully replacing the worldly, sinful, secular models and methods of psychological counseling, the leaders of the biblical counseling movement simply retrofitted the pattern of their conversations into their so-called biblical replacement. Then as many of the leaders of the biblical counseling movement recycled conversations from the polluted behavioristic, psychoana-

lytic, humanistic, and family systems streams of counseling psychology, they picked up the practices of sinful secular talk from these various psychotherapies. Reading the seven counselor reviews in the book should make it apparent that, **because of the many sinful conversations that occur in both psychological and biblical counseling, Christians should not be participants or practitioners in either one.**

The End of Biblical Counseling will come when the church returns to its high calling of evangelizing, preaching, teaching, and living the doctrines of the cross and the new life in Christ....

We have written a number of books that describe what can be done in the local church by those who are members of the local fellowship.⁹ **The local church is the place for preaching, teaching, and pastoral care for the edification of all believers, under the authority of the foundation laid by Scripture and as given by Jesus Christ.** As believers mature in the faith, they are equipped for mutual care of one another.

All truly biblical ministry builds up the Body of Christ through preaching, teaching, evangelizing, and caring for one another through mutual encouragement, instruction, admonition, confession, repentance, forgiveness, restoration, consolation, and comfort, as believers remind one another of all that Christ has accomplished for them.

When the goal is to edify, there is no room for corrupt communication, evil speaking, gossip, blame, or expressions of bitterness, unbiblical anger, or malice within pastoral or mutual care in the Body of Christ, as they occur in the biblical counseling movement. All would be done to glorify God and nurture the spiritual growth of believers into the

image of Christ, rather than glorifying the counselor and nurturing the flesh.

The End of Biblical Counseling will come when the church returns to its high calling of evangelizing, preaching, teaching, and living the doctrines of the cross and the new life in Christ; when believers are learning to walk according to the spirit rather than the flesh; and when mutual care in the Body of Christ thrives. We pray that those believers who have a heart for personal ministry, who desire to strengthen fellow believers in their faith as they are struggling with the difficulties and trials of life, will give heed to these serious faults that impede rather than inspire spiritual growth. We further pray that those Christians who are psychotherapists will realize that they are in even greater biblical jeopardy than the biblical counselors.

Endnotes

- 1 Excerpted from Martin and Deidre Bobgan. *Biblical Counseling Reviews*. Santa Barbara, CA: EastGate Publishers, 2018, available at amazon.com.
- 2 Martin & Deidre Bobgan. *How to Counsel from Scripture*. Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1985.
- 3 Martin & Deidre Bobgan. *Against "Biblical Counseling": For the Bible*. Santa Barbara, CA: EastGate Publishers, 1994, available at amazon.com.
- 4 Institute for Nouthetic Studies, <http://www.nouthetic.org/>.
- 5 Jay E. Adams. *Competent to Counsel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1970, p. xv.
- 6 Bobgan, *Against "Biblical Counseling": For the Bible*, op. cit. p. 87.
- 7 Charles J. Sykes. *A Nation of Victims: The Decay of the American Culture*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992.
- 8 Jean M. Twenge and W. Keith Campbell. *The Narcissism Epidemic: Living in the Age of Entitlement*. New York: Free Press, 2009, 2010.
- 9 Martin and Deidre Bobgan. *Christ-Centered Ministry* (2003); *Competent to Minister: The Biblical Care of Souls* (1996); *Person to Person Ministry* (2009); *Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* (2011). Santa Barbara, CA: EastGate Publishers.



Elyse Fitzpatrick Revisited

In our September-October newsletter we wrote about a talk on sex given by Elyse Fitzpatrick, a popular Christian author, speaker, and sex counselor.¹ Out of the more than 1300 visits **per day** to our website, plus our digital and physical mailing lists, very few people said that Fitzpatrick was impersonating Marilyn Monroe singing “Happy Birthday, Mr. President” to President John F. Kennedy (JFK) (1962). If this is true, it was a sinful choice on her part for two reasons.

First, her sexy invitation led many like us to relate her words to the more recent Monica Lewinsky/Bill Clinton affair, rather than the Monroe/Kennedy affair, since there was a brief physical contact between Lewinsky and Clinton during or just after the singing of “Happy Birthday, Mr. President” to Clinton.² A number of months later, after a birthday party for a member of the staff, Clinton and Lewinsky had an intimate sexual encounter, followed by others, which became highly publicized.³

Second, why would a popular, known-to-be-godly woman, in a sexy, singsongy manner, impersonate anything out of sex-symbol Marilyn Monroe’s mouth, knowing that she had an adulterous affair with JFK?⁴ And why would Fitzpatrick advise women that “There needs to be times in which you sing to your husbands, ‘Happy Birthday, Mr. President’ and it’s okay”? What is rather telling is Fitzpatrick impersonating Marilyn Monroe, advising other women to do likewise, **and publicly exposing her personal sexual intimacy with her husband!**

Sexual Intimacy in Marriage

Even if Fitzpatrick was imitating Monroe from 56 years ago rather than Lewinsky, **our conclusion remains.** Listen to Fitzpatrick’s total sex talk⁵ and her sinful recommendation of a “really lovely book” about which she says,

“This book *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage*⁶ would be a **very good book for you if you need information about this stuff**” (bold added). As we mentioned in the article, we obtained the book and found what Fitzpatrick refers to as “this stuff.” **This book refers to sex 500 times, orgasm 189 times, the two sex acts of sodomy 53 times, masturbation 26 times, vibrators 11 times, and sex toys 3 times. The Christian authors support these sexual practices for believers as long as there is mutual consent between the husband and wife!**

Within the last twenty years a dramatic change occurred regarding what people think the Bible teaches about sodomy.

They also refer to the Song of Solomon 48 times in their effort to biblically justify the practice of sodomy in marital sex. Such an interpretation by implication does not come from an understanding of the context of the whole Bible, particularly creation, but rather imposes the influence of the 20th century sexual revolution onto the text. Without the whole counsel of God, one can find all sorts of ideas totally unrelated to what God would ever say.

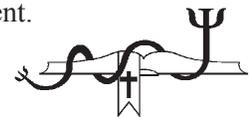
We conclude that Fitzpatrick’s sex counseling and personal sex life include this repeated teaching in the book: or, why would she recommend it so highly with no caveats? In addition, we reveal that towards the end of her sex talk, Fitzpatrick says, “If my [adult] daughter was sitting in here and I talked about ‘Happy birthday, Mr. President,’ she would be throwing up.”

Listen to Fitzpatrick’s sex talk and her comment about how her adult daughter would respond (throw up), read what she calls the “lovely book,”

Sexual Intimacy in Marriage, which she most highly recommends, and you will find evidence to confirm our conclusion, even without a seeming-to-us-and-others Clinton/Lewinsky allusion.

Conclusion

Within the last twenty years a dramatic change occurred regarding what people think the Bible teaches about sodomy. There are now numerous Christians who believe that either one or both sexual acts of sodomy are biblically permissible as long as they are agreed upon within the marriage of one man and one woman. We explain in our book *The Sodomy of Christians: The Biblical View*⁷ how America and the church moved in this sinful direction and how prevalent the acceptance and practice of sodomy are, both in the world and in the church. These sexual activities are being accepted and promoted not only by various Christian pastors and authors, but by leaders in the biblical counseling movement.



Endnotes

- ¹ “Elyse Fitzpatrick: Sex Counselor,” *PsychoHeresy Awareness Letter*, Vol. 26, No. 5, September-October, 2018.
- ² Sally Bedell Smith. *For Love of Politics: Bill and Hillary Clinton: The White House Years*. Random House Publishing Group, 2007, Kindle Edition, Locations 5141-5144.
- ³ “The Starr Report,” *The Washington Post*, Sunday, September 13, 1998; Page A32, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/clinton/timeline.htm?noredirect=on>.
- ⁴ “People Explains: All About Marilyn Monroe’s Alleged Affairs with JFK and Brother Bobby,” <https://people.com/politics/marilyn-monroe-affair-john-f-kennedy-robert-f-kennedy>.
- ⁵ Elyse Fitzpatrick, “Not in the Mood Sexual Problems,” IBCD Resource Library, <https://ibcd.org/not-in-the-mood-sexual-problems-in-marriage/>.
- ⁶ William Cutrer and Sandra Glahn. *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1998, 2001, 2007. Amazon.com has sample pages that can be read at no cost: <https://www.amazon.com>.
- ⁷ Martin and Deidre Bobgan. *The Sodomy of Christians: The Biblical View*. Santa Barbara, CA: EastGate Publishers, 2017, www.amazon.com.