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Theology Of Christian Counseling, A

A THEOLOGY OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

More Than Redemption

JAY E. ADAMS

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A Theology of Christian Counseling connects biblical doctrine with practical living. Salvation, that central concern of Protestant theology, is often too narrowly defined. It is thought of as simply being saved from the consequences of sin. But God is doing much more. He is making something new out of the old sinful nature. He is, in Christ, making new creatures. No counseling system that is based on some other foundation can begin to offer what Christian counseling offers. . . . No matter what the problem is, no matter how greatly sin has abounded, the Christian counselor’s stance is struck by the far-more-abounding nature of the grace of Jesus Christ in redemption. What a difference this makes in counseling! In this book the reader will gain an insight into the rich theological framework that supports and directs a biblical approach to counseling. And the connection between solid theology and practical application will become compelling. This book is one-of-a-kind.

**Synopsis**

Theology and Counseling - Do they go together? Absolutely! In fact, you can't have true biblical counseling without doctrine. Adams wrote this book almost 30 years ago to "convince the reader that truth and godliness are interrelated in such a way that it isn't possible to have one without the other, and that, therefore, counselors must become biblical theologians..." (pg 307) This is a follow-on to Adam’s book "Competent to Counsel" that I have also reviewed and found to be very helpful. I can recommend this book as generally beneficial but not as much so as "Competent to
Counsel", "Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands" by Paul David Tripp, and "How People Change" by Timothy Lane and Paul David Tripp. The point of such nouthetic counseling books is that counseling must be grounded in Scripture, specifically in the Gospel of Jesus Christ who can transform the heart - to the ends that the soul finds satisfaction in the preeminence and glory of Christ Himself. The book is laid out much like a systematic theology. Adams connects issues of counseling with various biblical doctrines. For example, 1. Related to the doctrine of the Scriptures (pg 16-56)…All other eclectic counseling methods are setting up rival systems that compete with the Bible (v8-9). We must know what Scripture says and that it communicates authoritatively to counselees (pg 13). The authority does not come from the counselor (pg 20). Only the scriptures have the power to transform (2 Tim 3:15-17) (pg 36-37). We understand our environment that surrounds us from the scriptures (pg 38-56). 2. Related to the doctrine of God (pg 57-93)…The Believer can find encouragement in the names of God (pg 57-60).

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