

How to Help People in Need Grow to Maturity: Foundations for Gospel-Shaped Pastoral Care

Many Christians rightly recognise faithful preaching and evangelism as priorities for contemporary Europe. But people, including Christians, increasingly talk about and struggle with their emotional and mental wellbeing. Help is offered by counsellors and therapists and promised through ideas like resilience and mindfulness. Does the church have anything distinct to offer these people? How can we develop pastoral care in our churches that meets people in their need but is shaped by the gospel rather than other values? How do we connect what we preach with how people live? This seminar will explore these questions and others you may have.

Paul Coulter lives in Lisburn, Northern Ireland, with his Chinese Malaysian wife, Gar-Ling, and their two teenage children. A medic and cross-cultural pastor by background, he is now Head of Ministry Operations with Living Leadership (www.livingleadership.org), an organisation helping leaders and their families across the UK and Ireland live joyfully in Christ and serve Him faithfully. He is also Executive Director of the Centre for Christianity in Society (www.christianityinsociety.org), which seeks to connect Christ with issues and needs in contemporary culture. Paul is the author of three books - *Clarion Call: Finding Joy in Christ with John the Baptist*, *Serving Two Masters? Probing the Tensions Between Science and Faith in the Art of Healthcare*, and *Keeping Care Pastoral: the Heart of Gospel-Shaped Pastoral Care* - several book chapters and multiple articles, including several on BeThinking.org. He speaks and writes regularly on leadership, pastoral care, ethics and apologetics. In his spare time, he loves to walk in hills and forests, cycle on flat roads, and read about history.

I. Is Pastoral Care a Luxury in 21st Century Europe?

II. Keeping Care Pastoral

- A. When is 'pastoral care' not pastoral?
- B. Scripture: the shepherd
- C. History: *Cura Animarum*
- D. Theology: care shaped by the gospel

III. Becoming Godly Care-Givers

- A. Joining the triune God: motivation, means and goals
- B. Working wisely within limits

IV. Creating a Caring Community

- A. Three kinds of care-giver
- B. Four ministries in pastoral care
- C. Five levels of pastoral care
- D. Planning for effective provision of care

Suggested Reading:

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich (1985) *Spiritual Care*, trans. by J.C. Rochelle. Fortress Press.

Coulter, Paul B (2022) *Keeping Care Pastoral: The Heart of Gospel-Shaped Pastoral Care*. PESIOD Publications.

Tripp, Paul D. (2002) *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands: People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change*. P&R.