

***RE 536 PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELING***  
***BMA Theological Seminary Syllabus – Spring 2010***

**Instructor:**

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Office hours will be posted on office door.

**Required Textbook:**

Collins, Gary R. *How to Be a People Helper*. Wheaton, Illinois:Tyndale House Publishers. 1995. ISBN: 0842313850

Minirth, Frank. *The Minirth Guide for Christian Counselors*. B&H Books. 2003.  
ISBN: 0805427996

**Course Description:**

Theories and techniques which are necessary for pre-counseling are taught, including the role and skills essential to Christian counseling. Practical experience and evaluation techniques are introduced.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course you should be able:

1. to identify major scholarly and professional writings within the field of Christian counseling.
2. to commence development of your own philosophy of and orientation toward the counseling process.
3. to demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, concepts, therapy process, and techniques of major schools of counseling.
4. to demonstrate knowledge concerning the basic elements of the broad field of counseling.

## **Course Assignments:**

Attendance and participation in various class activities. **10%**

Guest speaker reports, case studies, or video exercises **10%**

Reading Log **10%**

Each student must critique 10 relevant journal articles.

Read ten articles relating to Christian Counseling.

Record (1) bibliographic information,

(2) a short summary, and

(3) a brief personal reaction.

Exam **20%**

Research Paper **25%.**

Select any trend/issue which is of special interest to you in the area of Christian Counseling. Write a 12 - 15 page professional paper on the subject. Also prepare a 20 - 30 minute presentation of your findings for the class. Duplicate topics will be discouraged.

Final Exam **25%**

All assignments will be discussed in detail. A schedule of activities will be distributed with due dates indicated. The content of this syllabus is subject to revision as announced in regular class sessions.

## CHRISTIAN COUNSELING -- BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Benner David G. Strategic Pastoral Counseling. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House. 1992.
- Carkuff, R. R. The Art of Helping. Amherst, Mass.: Human Resource Development Press. 1983.
- Carlson, D.L. Why Do Christians Shoot Their Wounded? Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 1994.
- Clinton, Timothy, and George Ohlschlanger. Competent Christian Counseling. Waterbrook Press. 2002.
- Collins, G. R. The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers. Colorado Springs: Navpress. 1993.
- Collins, G. R. Can You Trust Psychology? Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press. 1988.
- Collins, G. R. Christian Counseling. Waco: Word Books, 1980.
- Crabb, L. J. Basic Principles of Biblical Counseling. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975.
- Dueck, A.C. Between Jerusalem and Athens: Ethical Perspectives on Culture, Religion, and Psychotherapy. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 1995.
- Faw, H. W. Psychology in Christian Perspective. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. 1995.
- Jones, S. L. and R. E. Butman. Modern Psychotherapies. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- Koteskey, R. L. General Psychology for Christian Counselors. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1983.
- Minirth, F., P. Meier, and D. Ratcliff. Bruised & Broken. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1992.
- Minirth, Frank B. and Paul D. Meier. Counseling and the Nature of Man. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Book House, 1982.
- Minerth, F. B. and P. D. Meier. Happiness is a Choice. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker, 1978.
- Tan, S. Lay Counseling. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1991.
- Walker, D.E. Biblical Counseling with African Americans. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1991.
- Welch, E. D. Counselor's Guide to the Brain and Its Disorders. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

## **Journals and Magazines**

- Christian Counseling Today (American Association of Christian Counselors)
- Discipleship Journal (The Navigators) (no longer in print)
- Leadership (Christianity Today)
- Journal of Biblical Counseling (Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation)
- Journal of Counseling and Development (American Counseling Association) = secular
- Journal of Pastoral Care (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and others)
- Journal of Psychology and Theology (Rosemead School of Psychology)
- Journal of Religion and Health (Blanton–Peal Institute)
- Psychology Today (Sussex Publishers) = secular + popular + New Age