

Overview to ETCA CEGM: GM2g

Lecture 1: Mapping Pastoral Care

1. Pastoral Care in the Bible (Shepherding)
2. Pastoral Care in Pastoral Ministry
3. Pastoral Care in History
4. Pastoral Care in a Local Church

Homework: Map your local church Pastoral Ministry & Pastoral Care.

Lecture 2A: Mapping Sufferers Biblically

1. Suffering in the Bible
2. Sufferer as Embodied Soul
3. Sufferer as Sinner, Saint, Sufferer
4. Pastoral Care in Small Groups, Church Life

Homework: Reflect on your personal conviction on suffering & sufferer.

Lecture 2B: Mapping Caregivers Biblically

1. Caregiver's Self-Awareness
2. Caregiver's Posture: Humility & Love
3. Caregiver's Role, Team & Support
4. Caregiver's Self-care

Homework: Reflect on your personal conviction about yourself as caregiver

Lecture 3: Pastoral Care

1. Pastoral Care in Loss & Grief
2. Pastoral Care in Depression & Anxiety (D&A)
3. Pastoral Care in Hospitalisation

Homework: Consider your church's pastoral care for those suffering in these ways.

Lecture 4: Pastoral Care

1. Pastoral Care in Conflict
2. Pastoral Care in Same Sex Attraction
3. Pastoral Care in Addiction (Sexual)

Homework: Consider your church's pastoral care for those suffering in these ways.

LECTURE 1: Mapping Pastoral Care 4, 11, 18, 25 May 2023, 730-930pm

Class Description

Today, pastoral care is commonly talked about, expected and offered - not only in churches but also in schools in Singapore. Many churches aspire to strengthen their 'pastoral care' to serve the needs of their congregations. Staffs and members are sent for training to be equipped with 'pastoral care' skills. This class aims to take a step back and ask a fundamental question: What is exactly 'pastoral care'? Most importantly, what does God think about pastoral care? How does God want us to do pastoral care?

Learning Goals

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Think biblically about pastoral care by making connections from the Bible to pastoral care, gaining better clarity on how pastoral care fits into God's grand plan and purposes for the world.
- Gain better understanding of how historically pastoral care, influenced by secular psychology, has evolved and drifted away from the gospel of Christ.
- Develop a ministry framework that locates the different forms of pastoral care within the life and ministry of the local church.
- Reflect and assess the pastoral care approach of your local church.

Required Pre-Reading

- PURVES, Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition, p1-5.

Further Reading

On Shepherding:

- WITMER, The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church
- PIERRE & REJU, The Pastor & Counselling: The Basics of Shepherding Members in Need
- LANIAK, Shepherds After My Own Heart: Pastoral Traditions and Leadership in the Bible

On Word Ministry:

- LEEMAN, Word-Centred Church: How Scripture Brings Life and Growth to God's People
- DEVER, 9 Marks of a Healthy Church

On History of Pastoral Care:

- PURVES, Pastoral Theology in the Classical Tradition.
- HOLIFIELD, A History of Pastoral Care in America: From Salvation to Self-Realization.
- THAM&D'ROZARIO, Pastoral Care in Singapore Schools: Its Concept & Practice.

Homework

Based on what you have learnt from the class about biblical pastoral ministry (and its subset pastoral care), reflect and assess your local church's current ministry approach to pastoral ministry. In which areas is the church doing well, and where could the church do better?

LECTURE 2: Mapping Sufferers & Caregivers Biblically

4, 11, 18, 25 May 2023, 730-930pm

Class Description

We live in a broken world where suffering is inevitable because of sin, and because of the cursed condition of the world since the Fall. The shepherding God's people into eternal life with God inevitably involves pastorally caring for those who are suffering. In Lecture 3 & 4, we'll focus on specific suffering e.g. loss & grief, chronic illness, trauma and marital conflict. But now, we must first gain some biblical clarity on suffering and the sufferer. Doing this will in turn help us understand our roles as caregivers biblically so that we can offer care meaningfully and faithfully.

Learning Goals

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Think biblically about the *nature of suffering* and its place in the life of Christians, so as to avoid the mistake of giving simplistic patronising counsel and care to sufferers under your care.
- Gain better biblical understanding on how to think about the *sufferer wholistically* - as 'embodied soul' and as 'sinner, saint & sufferer'. This will in turn shape our care for sufferers.
- Begin a journey of increasing *self-awareness* as caregivers, in order to develop a faithful and godly posture that reflects the gospel, loves the sufferers, and glorifies God.
- Gain an appreciation of how God designed the *local church* to be the context through which both sufferers and caregivers are both ministered to by Him. Hence, developing a biblical framework and strategies that care for sufferers utilising the gifts God has given His local church.
- Reflect and assess the pastoral care approach of your local church.

Required Pre-Reading

- POWLISON, God's Grace in Your Suffering
- EMLET, Saints, Sufferers, and Sinners: Loving Others as God Loves Us

Recommended Reading

On Biblical Suffering

- CARSON, How Long O Lord.
- POWLISON, God's Grace in Your Suffering

On Embodied Soul & Local Church

- EMLET, Understanding the Influences on the Human Heart¹
- EMLET, Saints, Sufferers, and Sinners: Loving Others as God Loves Us²
- LANE & TRIPP, How People Change³
- HAMBRICK, How to Create Effective Care Teams in Your Church⁴
- WELCH, Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom
- ADENEY & HEATH, Organizing Love in Church

Homework

How has your understanding of suffering been challenged, or sharpened, or fortified by today's class? How have you predominantly view the sufferers you care for – sinner, saint or sufferer, and how has that shaped your ministry and care towards them?

LECTURE 3: Mapping Pastoral Care Part 1

4, 11, 18, 25 May 2023, 730-930pm

Class Description

Death is an inevitable painful reality on this side of heaven. The pain of loss can be overwhelming. The bereaved struggle with many intense and painful emotions – profound sadness, depressed, anger, guilt. How do we pastorally care for them? Although depression is the most common mental illness in Singapore, with an estimated 1 out of 16 Singaporeans exhibiting depression symptoms at least once in the lifetime, ‘snap out of it’ remains a common response of many Christians and non-Christians alike. What would be a more biblically loving response? ‘Cancer & Incurable’ – two words most dreadful words to receive. When confronted with relentless chronic pain, or hopelessness, how can we pastorally care for such sufferers?

Learning Goals

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Develop a biblical framework in thinking about 1) Loss & Grief, 2) Depression & Anxiety, 3) Chronic Illness & Hospitalisation.
- *Describe* the suffering: For each of this suffering category, we want to first be able to describe the predicament. While we can never identify fully, understanding the suffering helps us to mourn with those who mourn. So we first ask : What is Loss & Grief like? What is it like to be Depressed? What’s the experience of fighting a Chronic Illness like? What makes it difficult?
- *Locate* the suffering biblically: For each of this suffering category, we want to understand it through the lenses of God’s revelation and ultimately the gospel of Christ. We want explain these suffering biblical-theologically against the prevalent world views on them.
- *Discern* what are unloving and loving responses towards these sufferers, and develop a posture and practical strategies to pastorally care for them.

Further Reading

On Loss & Grief:

- TADA & ESTES, When God Weeps: Why Our Sufferings Matter to the Almighty
- GUTHRIE, What Grieving People Wish You Knew: About What Really Helps (And What Really Hurts)
- LEWIS, A Grief Observed
- VROEGOP, Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament

On Depression & Anxiety:

- GRIMMOND, Facing Depression Together
- WELCH, Looking Up from Stubborn Darkness
- EMLET, Descriptions & Prescriptions: A Biblical Perspective on Psychiatric Diagnoses & Medications
- ASH, Out of the Storm: Grappling with God in the book of Job

On Chronic Illness:

- HENLEY, Loving A Friend Through Cancer: Moving Beyond I’m Sorry to Meaningful Support
- CROFT, Visit the Sick: Ministering God’s Grace in Times of Illness
- GROVE, Grief Undone: A Journey with God and Cancer
- BILLINGS, Rejoicing in Lament: Wrestling with Incurable Cancer & Life in Christ

Homework

Consider who in your local church you know who are suffering in these ways – loss & grief, depression & anxiety, chronic illnesses, or hospitalised. How are they being or not being cared for? Reflect on how have you previously perceived these sufferings, and how has it changed (if it had)?

LECTURE 4: Mapping Pastoral Care Part 2

4, 11, 18, 25 May 2023, 730-930pm

Class Description

As we dethrone God and enthrone ourselves, we cannot but create conflict with one another in various contexts; at home, at work, in church, in marriages. How can we help others engage conflicts in a godly way that won't undermine the gospel? Many Christians who experience same-sex attraction and seeking to obey Christ are living lonely lives in our churches. When someone shares his/her struggle with us, how can we pastorally care for them? Addiction comes in many different forms – addiction to substances (e.g. drugs/alcohol) or to certain activities (e.g. gaming, porn or gambling). Trapped and often ashamed with their addictions, many Christians live hypocritically in our churches in fear of judgement. When one finally musters up the courage and opens up to us, how would care look like?

Learning Goals

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Develop a biblical framework in thinking about 1) Conflict, 2) Same-sex Attraction, 3) Addiction.
- *Describe* the suffering: For each of this suffering category, we want to first be able to describe the predicament. While we can never identify fully, understanding the suffering helps us to mourn with those who mourn. So we first ask : What is it like to experience same-sex attraction? What's the dynamics of conflicts? What's the experience of fighting addiction? What makes it difficult?
- *Locate* the suffering biblically: For each of this suffering category, we want to understand it through the lenses of God's revelation and ultimately the gospel of Christ. We want explain these suffering biblical-theologically against the prevalent world views on them.
- *Discern* what are unloving and loving responses towards these sufferers, and develop a posture and practical strategies to pastorally care for them.

Recommended Reading

On Conflict:

- LANE & TRIPP, Relationships: A Mess Worth Making
- NOBLE, The Path of a Peacemaker: Your Biblical Guide to Healthy Relationships, Conflict Resolution, and a Life of Peace
- SMITH, Marriage Matters: Extraordinary Change Through Ordinary Moments

On Same-sex Attraction:

- HILL, Washed & Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness & Homosexuality
- ALLBERRY, Is God Anti-Gay: And other Questions about Homosexuality, the Bible & Same-sex Attraction
- YARHOUSE & ZAPOROZHETS, Costly Obedience: What We Can Learn from the Celibate Gay Christian Community

On Addiction:

- WELCH, Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave: Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel
- WELCH, Crossroad: Step-by-step Guide Away from addiction
- ROBERTS, The Porn Problem
- CHESTER, Captured by a Better Vision

Homework:

Consider your church's pastoral care for those suffering in these ways. How are they being or not being cared for? Reflect on how have you previously perceived these sufferings, and how has it changed.