

Dealing with difficult pastoral issues/people

"We should not reduce the role of shepherding to merely being a figurehead who makes a few decisions but does not interact with the sheep except on rare occasions, and never in too close proximity. But neither should we expand it to demand that he fit the world's category of competence in order to address the soulful problems of life with a professionalized counselling degree."

T. Dale Johnson Jr., *The Church as a Culture of Care*, pg. 107

See it right... this is not a distraction from ministry, this is the work of ministry - this is where Jesus gets his glory.

Dealing with difficult/complex people

Dealing with difficult/complex situations

Some of the time it's difficult and complex people in difficult and complex situations!

Dealing with difficult/complex people and situations

1. Listen far more than you talk

2. Take people at face value

3. Pay attention to the heart (not just the situation)

4. Don't underestimate the demonic

5. Let God set the agenda

6. Have realistic yet optimistic goals

7. Be gentle...but clear

8. Remember they need Jesus not you

9. Don't try to fix them, but serve them

10. Don't be efficient, be loving

- Paul Miller, "Jesus' tenderness with people suggested to me a new, less, "efficient way of loving. Love I, realized, is not efficient"¹

11. Stop and pray

12. Use the gifts of the church

13. Make much of hope

14. Realise when you are out of your depth and refer...

- Safeguarding policies - make sure you have these
- Counselling groups
- NHS
- Housing

How do I love _____ well? What will it look like to be useful to ____ in his/her growth in grace?

¹ Paul Miller, *Love Walked Among Us* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2001). 30.

some practical things:

Get a second opinion... another wise believer

Say what you can say, but don't over promise (I've made this mistake before)

Take notes

Membership matters!

Care list

Good Christian Counsellors

Counselling training

Caring for yourself

1. Cast your anxiety on Jesus
2. Remember your limitations
3. Remember God's faithfulness
4. Rest
5. Get a hobby
6. Go running