

Equipping Counselors for Your Church

Appendix 7.1

Biblical Counseling 4C Equipping Goals

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We commit to implementing best practice local church equipping by following Christ's disciple-making model of intentionally equipping the whole person: the heart (being—Christ-like character), the head (knowing—biblical content), and the hands (doing—counseling competence), in the context of God's home (loving—Christian community) (Romans 15:14).

1. Christ-like Character: “Full of Goodness”—Heart/Being

Spiritual Goal: Love—Equipped to Be (Enriching the Heart to Manifest Godly Love)

- Christ-like Love
- A Soft Heart for Godliness: Spiritual Fruitfulness
- Spiritual Formation: Spiritual Maturity through Intimacy with Christ

Since personal maturity is the foundation for powerful spiritual ministry, Christ-like disciple-makers must be enriched to be “full of goodness”—to love more like Jesus (*reflecting* Christ).

2. Biblical Content/Conviction: “Complete in Knowledge”—Head/Knowing

Educational Goal: Truth—Equipped to Know (Educating the Head to Apply God's Truth)

- Christ-like Thinking
- A Sharp Mind for Biblical Truth: Biblical Wisdom
- Spiritual Foundation: Changing Lives with Christ's Changeless Truth

Since powerful ministry requires biblical wisdom, Christ-like disciple-makers must be educated to know and apply God's Word deeply (“complete in knowledge”)—to think more like Jesus (*renewed* in Christ).

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3. Counseling Competence: “Competent to Instruct One Another”—Hands/Doing

Ministry Goal: Service—Equipped to Do (Empowering the Hands to Serve God’s People)

- Christ-like Ministry
- Serving Hands That Impact Lives: Relational Skillfulness
- Spiritual Friendship: Relating God’s Truth to Human Relationships

Since relational ministry requires relating Christ’s grace to human hurts, Christ-like disciple-makers must be empowered to skillfully do (“competent to instruct”)—to serve more like Jesus (*reproducing* Christ in others).

4. Christian Community: “Brothers/One Another”—Home/Loving

Relational Goal: Connecting—Equipped to Connect (Encouraging God’s House to Become a Home)

- Christ-like Relationships
- A Sensitive Home That Connects People: Biblical Community
- Spiritual Fellowship: Relational Maturity through Intimacy with Christians

Since effective ministry requires Christian community, Christ-like disciple-makers must be equipped to encourage the Christian community to address meaningfully the needs of people in the great tradition of soul care and spiritual direction where discipleship, counseling, and Christian community are united (“brothers”)—to build community in Jesus (*reconnected* through Christ).