

Session 3: Speaking the truth in love: something for the whole church

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ (Ephesians 4:15)

The final break-through to fellowship does not occur, because though they have fellowship with one another as believers and as devout people, they do not have fellowship as the undevout, as sinners. The pious fellowship permits no one to be a sinner. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Interpersonal ministry

1. A neglected ministry

2. A misunderstood ministry

3. A varied ministry

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Ephesians 4.29

4. An existing ministry

Discussion

If we wanted to improve the quality of the interpersonal ministry going on in our churches, what could we do?

1. Shift the culture

2. Set a personal example

3. Increase our application

4. **Enthuse our core**

5. **Mentor our leaders**

6. **Get more personal**

7. **Invest in coffee**

8. **Provide some seminars**

9. **Encourage some training**

Further Reading

- *Relationships: a mess worth making* by Timothy Lane and Paul Tripp
- *Why we care' instead of 'counsel' one another* Blog by Robert Cheong on Biblical Counseling Coalition website

Some quotations

'Life has to do with God. We are innately and thoroughly worshippers, lovers, fearers, trusters, believers, obeyers, refugees, hoppers, seekers, desirers of something or other. The human heart and the intricate multitude of responses – behaviour, emotion, cognition, memory, anticipation, attitude and so on are ruled. We heed either the true God, saviour and Lord or a host of identifiable lies, lusts, idols, voices and pretenders.' (David Powlison)

'When I say that we envision being a church of biblical counselling, that's just to say that one-anothering is normative in our church life.' (Mike Wilkerson, Redemption Group Network)

