

COUNSELOR'S EXAM 21

Define "total restructuring."

Give hope for the "insurmountable"

- Change is POSSIBLE (1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:12-16; Acts 13:22).
- Hope is not realized through the REMOVAL of every homosexual temptation or desire, but through the provision of Christ's resources that will enable him to honor God in the midst of the temptations (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 5:9).

Give hope for the "insurmountable"

- Hope is not realized through the REMOVAL of every homosexual temptation or desire.
 - God has given ALL the needed resources to endure and persevere.
 - God has not promised a victory where there will never again be temptation, but He does promise a victory that comes through the renewal of the mind (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:7-18).

When a problem is *the* problem



When a problem is *the* problem

- At times one problem will intersect with every FACET of life and overwhelm and supersede all other problems. To resolve this kind of problem means one has to change every area of life.
- To address this sin (as with all life-dominating sins), he must be willing to RADICALLY amputate the sin and its influences from his life (Mt. 5:29-30).

When a problem is *the* problem

- To put off his unrighteous sexual sin, he will have to put on corresponding righteousness in EVERY area of his life (Eph. 4:22-24).

When a problem is *the* problem

"Unless he shores up each of the areas of his life before God, they will constantly tend to drag him back toward homosexual sin in spite of good intentions.

The counselee, therefore, must be shown the importance of total structuring and must be urged to work hard in each area of his life by the power of the Spirit." [Jay Adams]

To help a homosexual restructure life...

□ Gather data

- LIFE history – people and relationships that significantly shaped him
 - Relationship with PARENTS
 - Incidents of ABUSE or molestation
 - Significant people and events of a SEXUAL nature
 - CULTURAL factors (peer groups, college, job, etc.).

To help a homosexual restructure life...

□ Current situation

- CURRENT LEVEL of homosexual behavior — what is he currently doing or not doing?
- All DYNAMICS — who are the people who influence this person? what are the locations? habits? rituals? etc.
- Desires: what are the DRIVING desires behind his homosexual behavior?

To help a homosexual restructure life...

Table 3. Turning from the Promises of Porn to the Adoration of God

Promise of Porn	Typical Context	Faith in God	Gospel Virtue
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To help a homosexual restructure life...

- Spiritual condition
- 4 essential questions that need to be answered:
 - What do you remember as significant in your earliest sexual experiences?
 - How did you react when you were mistreated in the past?
 - Where did you lose faith that God could help you change?
 - What benefits or rewards does homosexuality provide that you believe cannot be found in Christ?

To help a homosexual restructure life...

- Identify, unpack, renew, and replace —
 - His DESIRES
 - His THINKING
- Work/school
- Physical health, diet, exercise, sleep
- Marriage/sex

To help a homosexual restructure life...

- Finances/budget
- Family relationships
- Social activities
 - ▣ Establish new, Christ-centered RELATIONSHIPS
 - ▣ Form godly, transparent ACCOUNTABILITY with other believers (Titus 2)

To help a homosexual restructure life...

- ▣ Accountability software on his computer
- ▣ Provide passwords and access to all email, social networking sites, and cellular activity to an accountability partner.
- ▣ Does he need to move (perhaps home)?
- Spiritual disciplines & corporate worship
- Other

Two final reminders

- In restructuring the homosexual's life, the goal is to make NO PROVISION for the flesh (Rom. 13:14).
- The restructuring is NOT ultimately about external (behavioral) change (2 Cor. 5:9; Eph. 4:22-24).

COUNSELOR'S EXAM 23

List several reasons for terminating a case.

Before you stop counseling, remember

- Counseling is primarily DISCIPLESHIP for a PARTICULAR purpose. Biblical counseling is not intended to continue meeting perpetually.
- The goal of church ministry is to lead people to saving knowledge of Christ and to see them grow and mature in Christ (Col. 1:28-29; Eph. 4:13; 2 Pt. 3:18). That is also the goal of COUNSELING.

Some reasons to stop counseling

- The individual is GROWING in Christ.
 - The stated GOALS and PURPOSE of the counseling arrangement have been satisfactorily met.
 - It is evident that there has been significant BEHAVIORAL change (a change that is the result of repentant and renewed thinking).
 - The counselee is faithful with HOMEWORK — particularly spiritual disciplines, and is doing the spiritual disciplines on his own.

Some reasons to stop counseling

- The counselor has been able to TEACH all the intended Biblical principles and the counselee has assimilated and applied those principles.
- The counselee demonstrates not only that he has understood the principles himself, but also that he is able to TEACH them to others.
- GRADUATION. REJOICE in what God has done in the counselee.

Some reasons to stop counseling

- The individual is RESISTANT to GROWING in Christ.
 - HOMEWORK is not completed. (Be sure the amount of your homework is appropriate.)
 - Sessions are filled with TALK about the problem (complaining?) without any CHANGE in behavior.
 - His behavior changes, but he starts sinning in OTHER AREAS and doesn't deal with the underlying motives and desires (Js. 1:13-18; 4:1-3).

Some reasons to stop counseling

- The counselee is being intentionally ARGUMENTATIVE with the counselor or others in his circumstance (Tt. 3:10); if he is argumentative, it is clear indication of his lack of desire for transformation.
- The counselee CONTINUES in the confronted sinful behavior.
- The biblically stated goals remain UNMET and the counselee is unwilling to pursue them.

Some reasons to stop counseling

- ❑ The counselee refuses to participate in either our church fellowship or a similar, Biblical church where he is accurately taught the Word of God.
- ❑ The counselee repeatedly fails to MEET for counseling in the agreed-upon method.
- ❑ In summary, if there is continued evidence of PERSISTENCE in sin and RESISTANCE to repentance and transformation, then counseling will be terminated.

Some reasons to stop counseling

- ❑ When you stop, encourage him to REPENT (2 Tim. 2:24-26) and to come back when he is ready to grow and change.
- ❑ Keep praying. Who knows what the God of grace will do?
