



The Biblical Counseling Movement: History and Context

By David Powlison

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Beginning in the late 1960s, a biblical counseling movement sought to reclaim counseling for the church and provide a Christian alternative to mainstream psychiatry and psychotherapy. The *Biblical Counseling Movement: History and Context* is an informative and thought-provoking account of that movement. This historical account combines careful scholarship with a unique, eyewitness insight. This book is an invaluable resource for those who want to understand the biblical counseling movement. The core chapters were originally a Ph.D. dissertation in history of science and medicine (University of Pennsylvania). This new edition adds a lengthy appendix, containing articles by Dr. Powlison that give an analysis of developments within the biblical counseling movement and in its relationship to evangelical psychotherapists.

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Editorial Review

Review

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this book. The counseling wars of the past half-century have ignited passions often characterized by labels rather than by careful analytic thought. This is the first broadly comprehensive history of these developments. While trying to be open to truth and insight whatever their source, Powlison faithfully argues that the Christian faith must play a constitutive role in building a robust model of Christian counseling. Amen and Amen. --D. A. Carson, Ph.D., Research Professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; author of *The Gagging of God, Christ and Culture Revisited*, and *An Introduction to the New Testament*

Everyone interested in the modern biblical counseling movement needs to read this well-researched and well-written book. This is a fair and balanced presentation of one of the most important movements in the evangelical church. Readers will be equipped not only with historical insight, but, more importantly, with wisdom for how to speak the truth in love. --Bob Kellemen, Ph.D., Author of *Soul Physicians, Spiritual Friends, Beyond the Suffering*, and *Sacred Friendships*

David Powlison has written the definitive account of a biblical counseling movement that arose in the 1960s and continues to influence the field of Christian counseling today. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the rapid and turbulent growth occurring in faith-based counseling in the latter part of the twentieth century. --Ian F. Jones, Ph.D., Director, Baptist Marriage and Family Counseling Center; Professor of Psychology and Counseling, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; author of *The Counsel of Heaven on Earth*

About the Author

David Powlison, M.Div., Ph.D., is a faculty member and counselor at the Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation (CCFE) with over thirty years of experience. He has written several books, including *Seeing with New Eyes* and *Speaking Truth in Love*; many booklets, including *Facing Death with Hope*, *Healing after Abortion*, *Recovering from Child Abuse*, and *Renewing Marital Intimacy*; and numerous articles on counseling.

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