

**Life on Life: Personal Ministry 201**  
**January-February, 2021**

1. ~~January 3~~ ~~***Why is Personal Ministry Needed in the Church?***~~
2. January 10 ***Biblical Sufficiency and the Medical Model***
3. January 17 ***Six Steps to Personal Ministry***
4. January 24 ***Step One: Building Involvement***
5. January 31 ***Step Two: Giving Hope***
6. February 7 ***Step Three: Gather Data***
7. February 14 ***Step Four: Interpret Data Biblically***
8. February 21 ***Step Five: Teach Biblically Applied to the Problem***
9. February 28 ***Step Six: Give Applicable Biblical Homework***

**Life on Life: The Art of Personal Ministry (201)**  
**Class Two – January 10, 2021**  
***Biblical Sufficiency vs. the Medical Model***

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. **2 Pet 1:2**

**I. Review**

- A. **Why should we equip each other to sharpen and help others? The Body is called to teach, admonish, exhort, encourage, comfort and build up “one another.”** (Prov. 17:10; 1 Th. 5:14, 2 Tim. 2:24-26; He. 3:12-13, Jas. 5:19-21)
  
- B. **What is the goal of Life-on-Life Personal Ministry?**
  - 1. Goal is progressive sanctification of the individual (2 Cor. 5:9; Romans 8:29)
  - 2. Goal of progressive sanctification is maturity of the Body (Eph. 4:13-16)
  
- C. Personal Ministry requires a gospel-sourced **message**, prescribed **methods**; targeted biblical **content**, demonstrated **character** on the part of the helper; includes providing **guidance** for life and “**presence with**” the one being helped.
  
- D. *Life-on-Life Personal Ministry* is a caring relationship based on the confidence that the Bible is authoritative and sufficient for persons in community to help one another **overcome or live well with** all non-organic problems of a spiritual, relational, psychological, or emotional nature. It can be **formal or non-formal**.

**II. Biblical Sufficiency**

- A. **Personal Ministry:** The **two main parts** of life on life ministry could be called ‘**incarnational**’ (*being connected with them person-person so they experience the Lord’s care for them through your understanding, love, and humility*) and ‘**propositional**’ (connect them with God’s word applied clearly to their situation).
  
- B. The confidence of a helper is not their knowledge, skill, experience or success in helping others. Our confidence for this ministry is the **authoritative Word**.
  
- C. Although the world seeks man’s wisdom (Luke 16:15, Col. 2:8, 1 Cor. 1:18-25), our desire is not to give them men’s wisdom. Our desire is to share with them the wisdom of God, which is Christ (Psalm 19:7; 111:10; 1 Cor. 1:24, Eph. 3:8-10).
  
- D. **Biblical Sufficiency** means the Bible is sufficient to give us and those we draw alongside all we need to know to respond properly to any non-organic challenge or struggle we might encounter. In the Scriptures and with the Holy Spirit, God has given us everything necessary for us to experience increasing grace and peace, abundant life, and to be able to respond in a godly fashion. With His Word and His Spirit, He has given us all we need to experience love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

- E. **Biblical sufficiency** does not mean that people who do not use the Bible cannot tell people things that can help them. In God’s natural revelation (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:20), He has graciously revealed to people many principles which might help people in some situations. Our goal is not to attack non-biblical helpers. Rather, the church is to pass to one another the tools whereby we can do what the church alone can do – care for people as Christ would have us do, and direct them with the Scriptures to walk according to the Spirit.

**III. Examination of Biblical Sufficiency**

- A. We will examine three great sets of promises of the Word of God. Think about any non-organic problem you face right now or have faced in the past six months. Think about your depressed friend, the struggling wife you meet with, the fearful single adult you are helping, or the distrustful person who was sexually abused 22 years ago. If these things the Bible promises come true for you and for them in the way the Bible says it can, how would we be doing?

1. **Psalm 19:7-11** – write **each benefit** in the blanks below

- a. The law of the Lord is perfect, **restoring the soul**
- b. The testimony of the Lord is sure, \_\_\_\_\_
- c. The precepts of the Lord are right, \_\_\_\_\_
- d. The commandment of the Lord is pure, \_\_\_\_\_
- e. The fear of the Lord is clean, \_\_\_\_\_
- f. The judgments of the Lord are true, \_\_\_\_\_
- g. They are more desirable than \_\_\_\_\_ and sweeter than \_\_\_\_\_.
- h. By them, your servant is \_\_\_\_\_ and if he or she keeps them, God promises for them \_\_\_\_\_.

2. **Galatians 5:22-23** – If a person abides in Christ (John 15:4-7) or walks in the light as Jesus is in the Light (1 John 1:7), we have fellowship with God and with each other, and we bear much fruit. As one does this, she or he can be said to “walk in the Spirit” (Romans 8:4) and “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). What are the marks of someone who exhibits the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. **2 Peter 1:2-3** This passage promises four things to a person who grows in the experiential knowledge of Christ (that is, the living, depending, confidence on Him in situations before we see how they turn out – like Daniel (1:8-16; 6:16-23) and his three friends (1:8-16; 3:16-18). What does it promise?

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\_\_\_\_\_

- B. Now let's ask ourselves as a class. *Which situation above would not benefit tremendously from the things listed happening for them as a result of good thoughtful support, care and counsel from the Word?*

#### IV. **Medical Model**

*Medical Model* is not a single model. It describes a collection of efforts for helping people **not** rooted in the Bible. They are rooted in 100's of psychological theories of what is wrong with people when they struggle or when their relationships are dysfunctional, as well 1000's of modalities for "treatment." They all share several characteristics: *A relationship with God is not central to the solution; sin is not the problem; the Word of God is not essential to the solution.* Many of them also share other traits: *the person struggling is a patient; the issues they face are physical in origin; their behaviors are the product of what others have done or failed to do; the solution is rooted in medicine or in being unconditionally accepted and understood.*

We understand that some of these can be helpful for some things. "*Gradually increasing selective exposure to sources of anxiety*" is a modality from within the cognitive-rational framework which will help a greater number of anxious people overcome their anxiety than a control group with no method applied to helping them. Certain people with certain experiences of depression will see their depression reduce significantly under the prescription of certain antidepressants when compared to a placebo group. Some methods of "treatment" from within some of these schools of counseling thought at times will help some people.

However, we are saying that for non-organic personal and relational problems, people who apply biblical truth in faith (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17), in reliance on the Holy Spirit, will be able to respond as God would have them, removing or living with the problem. What's more, they will grow to know and love and obey Him more, while almost all other approaches to helping people will go the opposite direction.

#### V. **Group Discussion**

- A. Please share with your group the verse you memorized (Eph. 4:15).
- B. Briefly share your 1-2 takeaways from last week's reading on Biblical Authority.
- C. How do each of the following passages contribute to the idea that the Bible is sufficient to guide us, and that we do not need man's wisdom in addition to God's wisdom to direct us in relationships, in personal problems, and in challenges within our emotional or psychological life?
  1. Psalm 19:7-12
  2. Proverbs 16:25
  3. Galatians 5:16, 5:22-23
  4. Colossians 1:21-23, 2:8
  5. 2 Tim. 3:16-17
  6. 2 Peter 1:2-3

## VI. Homework

- A. Memorize and be prepared to share 2 Peter 1:2 (see first page, top of page)
- B. **OPTIONAL:** Read the article on Biblical Sufficiency by David Powlison that we have copies of near the sign in table. It is the best thing we have read on the topic of biblical sufficiency, but it will take an hour or more to read it.
- C. Draw a line from the passage on the right to the attribute it supports on the left.
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Rooted in the authority of God.              | Psalm 19:7-11<br>Proverbs 3:5-7<br>Proverbs 12:3<br>Proverbs 30:5-6                                 |
| 2. Rooted in the sufficiency of Christ.         | Isaiah 55:8-9<br>Matthew 9:6<br>Matthew 28:18-20<br>John 14:6                                       |
| 3. Rooted in the sufficiency of the Scriptures. | Acts 4:12<br>Romans 15:4-6<br>1 Cor. 1:18-25<br>1 Cor. 2:12-13                                      |
| 4. Superior to the wisdom of men.               | Col. 2:1-3<br>Col. 2:8-10<br>2 Timothy 3:16-17<br>2 Peter 1:2-3<br>2 Peter 1:19-21<br>2 Peter 3:1-2 |

*"But it is not only that the Word of God is sufficient for all times, even times like ours. It is also sufficient in all areas. That is it is able to do all we need it to do and are commissioned to do as Christians."*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Standing on the Rock*. James Montgomery Boice p. 136