

# EMBASSY COLLEGE



ανηρ ὅς εμπροσθεν μου γεγονέν, ὁι πρῶτος  
μου ἦν. **31**κἀγὼ οὐκ ἤδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα  
φανερωθῆ τῷ Ἰσραὴλ διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ  
ἐν ὕδατι βαπτίζων. **32**Καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν  
Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι Τεθέαμαι τὸ πνεῦμα.



## SYLLABUS AND STUDY GUIDE

### Intro to Biblical Counseling

CC301

Dr. Mike Chapman

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## **Your Instructor**

Dr. Mike Chapman has served as Senior Pastor of the Lee Highway Church of God in Chattanooga, Tennessee since 1976. During his ministry, the church has had significant growth from a congregation of 50 to over 1000. Prior to coming to Chattanooga, Dr. Chapman served as pastor of congregations in Fremont, California and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Chapman received his B.A. in Biblical studies from Lee College in Cleveland, Tennessee, his Th.M. from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia, and his D.Min. from North American Biblical Seminary in Buffalo, New York. He also did graduate work at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Tacoma, Washington.

He is the author of **Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts** and a contributing author of **Discipleship 90: Discovering the Christlife**. He has also written numerous articles for Christian magazines and professional periodicals.

## **Introduction to the Course**

### **Course Description**

*Introduction to Biblical Counseling* is a course that will examine the biblical principles of human personality and how personal change occurs. Special focus will be placed on the church as God's healing institution, the unique features of Christian counseling, and the development of a biblical approach to counseling.

### **Textbook**

*Handbook to Happiness: A Guide to Victorious Living and Effective Counseling* by Charles R. Solomon, Ed.D., published by Tyndale House Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To give students a biblical understanding of human nature, a biblical picture of how emotional/behavioral problems develop, and a biblical strategy for change.
2. To provide students a framework in which the local church can be seen as a healing agent in society.
3. To motivate students to seek to further prepare themselves as helpers and counselors in the Body of Christ.

### **Course Grading**

The final exam will be due no later than

## Session One

# The Church as a Healing Institution

### INTRODUCTION

Wheaton College psychology professors, Dr. Stanton Jones and Dr. Richard Butman are quoted as saying, “The counseling processes are of such a nature that they must be thoroughly reconceptualized from a biblical foundation to lay claim to the adjective ‘Christian.’” Dr. Archibald Hart, Dean of the Fuller School of Psychology, admits, “A lot of Christian psychology is theologically bankrupt. We haven’t struggled with the great themes of the Christian gospel. We’ve been pragmatic. We try to help people with their emotions, but we don’t have a theology of emotions.” Dr. Gary Collins, President of the American Association of Christian Counselors states, “There are two dangers: Number one, that we will abandon the church. And the second danger is that our field will take over the church.” Noted pastor, author, and president of Dallas Theological Seminary, Dr. Chuck Swindoll says, “There’s a lot of schlocky stuff being passed off as Christian counseling by a lot of schlocky people.”

All of these quotes are from an article entitled *The Therapeutic Revolution* which was published in the May 17, 1993 issue of **Christianity Today** magazine. They represent some of the debate occurring within the church about the relationship between psychology and theology and between the church and the therapist’s office.

This course is not designed to be a complete course in counseling theory. It is, however, an introduction to the basic principles of biblical change as it relates to the emotional/behavioral struggles that humans face in a fallen world. We begin this study by seeking to answer the question, “Where does the church fit into all this?”

### I. THE CARE AND CURE OF SOULS

#### A. A Biblical understanding of the *soul*

1. Greek: *psuchê*
2. The three-fold function of the soul

- a. Mind
  - b. Will
  - c. Emotions
- B. What is the “care of souls” and the “cure of souls.”
1. The care of souls
  2. The cure of souls
- C. To whom has God committed the care and the cure of the soul?
1. To the church
  2. To church leaders
  3. To every believer
- D. Three prerequisites that are necessary to bring people to wholeness:

1. An understanding of human nature (a model of man)
  2. An understanding of how problems develop (a model of problems)
  3. An understanding of how people change (a model of change)
- E. The unique advantages of the church in the care and cure of souls
1. The Scriptures as ultimate authority
  2. The supernatural power and guidance of the Holy Spirit
  3. The multifaceted experiences of a local church
  4. The support of a local body of believers





## II. COUNSELING AND THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:18-20)

### A. The four key verbs of the great commission

1. “Go” (*poreuomai*) aorist participle
2. “make disciples” (*mathêteuo*) imperative, command
3. “baptizing” (*baptizo*) present participle
4. “teaching” (*didasko*) present participle

### B. The scope and implications of the Great Commission

1. Making disciples is the priority of the church.
2. Being a disciple is the priority of a believer.
3. Discipleship is the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:1, 2)
4. Discipleship is a multifaceted work.