

Six Observations from a Family Counselor

I. We're all "professional" counselors.

- But biblically speaking we are all called by God to admonish, reprove, correct, rebuke, edify, encourage, disciple, sharpen, and bear (Just check out I Thessalonians 5:14, II Timothy 4:2, I Timothy 5:20, I Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 3:13, Matthew 28:19, Proverbs 27:17, & Galatians 6:2 to name a few). No one who calls himself a Christ-follower should ever feel unqualified to give counsel as long as he gives *God's truth* from *God's Word*.

II. We're all in need of counseling.

- None of us make perfectly sanctified decisions every day, all day. We all need men and women in our lives who'll keep us accountable and to whom we can turn for God's truth. You're not the exception. Neither am I. I have a tight group of men and women I regularly turn to for advice and accountability. I also read articles and listen to podcasts because I know I need to grow.

III. Our opinion doesn't matter.

- Humans like to seek out those people who will agree with their own decisions. But we need Truth from the inscripturated word of God. Ephesians 4:14-15 tells us "we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even Christ*."

IV. Sometimes God allows our sin to destroy us.

- Romans 1:18-32 details for us what happens to unsaved people whom God turns over to their sin. It's not pretty. Get help early! The consequences are always more bearable in the spring of a sin season than they are in the winter.

V. God chastens those He loves.

- When we're caught in a sin, the temptation is to feel defensive. The authority is the antagonist, you've been caught, and will now have to suffer the terrible consequences. But in reality, Hebrews 12:6 and Revelation 3:19 tells us that God chastens those He loves. This means that chastening is a joyous thing designed to communicate God's love for us. He knows our sin will destroy us, and He doesn't want that to happen, so He allows our sin to find us out. We should be thankful for the men and women God tasks with being his Truth-channels. God hasn't given up on us, has a wonderful plan for us, and is actively working in our lives to accomplish it!

VI. Mom and Dad need as much counseling as the children do.

- I know this is a cheap repeat of #2, but there's something about being a parent that deceives us. Look, I'm a parent too. No one's a perfect parent. And we're not fooling anyone pretending to be. The only thing that keeps parents from acknowledging their own sins in childrearing is pride. When my children make bad choices, I always question myself first.