

## DOXOLOGICAL COUNSELING

### Instructing Worshipers to the Praise and Glory of God

#### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

##### COUNSELING

1. **Jay Adams** — *Competent to Counsel*. Adams wrote this book in the 70's to call the church to return to her duty to shepherd God's flock by counseling its own members. Adams's clarity and conviction about counseling are infectious.
2. **Jay Adams** — *The Christian Counselor's Manual*. This work is a sequel to *Competent to Counsel* and is something of a systematic theology for counseling. It includes in-depth teaching on a plethora of concepts essential to biblical counseling.
3. **John MacArthur** — *Counseling*. Written by John MacArthur and The Master's University faculty, this volume offers a broad overview of basic biblical counseling theology and practices.
4. **Ed Hindson and Howard Eyrich** — *Totally Sufficient*. This volume includes chapters written by several authors who each deal with a separate issue in biblical counseling, explaining how each of those concepts depends on and relates to the sufficiency of Scripture.
5. **Robert D. Smith, M.D.** — *The Christian Counselor's Medical Desk Reference*. An invaluable resource for biblical counselors, the MDR offers counseling instruction from the perspective of a former medical doctor. It covers a variety of medical-related issues that arise in counseling. The sections teaching a biblical perspective of illnesses and psychotropic drugs are excellent resources to biblical counselors.

##### THEOLOGY PROPER

1. \***Arthur Pink** — *The Attributes of God*. A classic work on God's attributes that includes seventeen short chapters, accessible to most average readers.
2. **J. I. Packer** — *Knowing God*. This classic work on God's attributes is more extensive than Pink's work and includes a must-read chapter on the doctrine of adoption.
3. **Steve Lawson** — *Made in Our Image*. The uniqueness of this book is that it is a study of God's attributes that compares the God of the Bible with today's popular, "user-friendly" view of God.
4. \***Stephen Charnock** — *The Existence and Attributes of God*. A large, in-depth study of God's attributes, including his eternity, immutability, and other lesser-known characteristics. The Puritan writing style may not be easy to grasp at first, but the payoff is certainly worth the work!
5. \***Jonathan Edwards** — *The End for Which God Created the World*. Though a bit philosophical at points, Edwards offers an excellent defense of God's glory being the ultimate reason why all things exist. It is not an easy read, but worth the effort.

\*Resources with an asterisk can also be found in a free PDF format online.

## SANCTIFICATION

1. **Jerry Wragg and Paul Shirley** — *Free to Be Holy*. This excellent work presents a clear biblical understanding of God's plan for sanctifying His people. It provides a much needed corrective to today's hyper-grace movement.
2. \***John Owen** — *The Mortification of Sin*. Written during a time when it was popular to sit under bold preaching and lay claim to orthodox truths of the Christian faith, Owen challenged his audience to test their profession by whether they progress in holiness. He teaches several strategies for mortifying sin and growing in faith.
3. **John MacArthur** — *Worship*. This book has been MacArthur's most consistently printed book to date. In it, he explains why worship is the ultimate priority of the Christian life and how each believer can faithfully pursue right worship of God.
4. \***Thomas Watson** — *The Godly Man's Picture*. In this volume, Watson details what are indispensable character qualities of the one who has been thoroughly converted by Christ. The many small yet profound sections in this book allow the reader to progress at a slow and steady pace by reading in short bursts as time permits.
5. \***Thomas Watson** — *The Doctrine of Repentance*. In a few chapters, Watson details what it means to possess genuine godly sorrow that leads to repentance.
6. \***J. C. Ryle** — *Holiness*. Thought written in 1879, this book sounds like it was written yesterday. In it, Ryle offers clear, biblical teaching on the necessity and pursuit of true holiness for believers.
7. \***John Newton** — *Advantages from Remaining Sin*. In this third letter written to a friend, Newton seeks to explain why God does not perfect believers immediately. Instead, God has chosen to receive greater glory through the believer's continual, albeit imperfect, striving against sin. This letter is included in *Select Letters of John Newton*.
8. \***Thomas Brooks** — *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*. In this book, Brooks details several ways that Satan tempts the believer and prescribes a plethora of solutions to each temptation. In it, readers will encounter a treasury of truths to guard the mind against wrong thinking.
9. \***Richard Sibbes** — *The Bruised Reed*. This book expounds on what it means that Christ will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering flax. Sibbes instructs readers how to think about those who are immature or fainthearted and includes valuable gems about obedience and holiness in the Christian life.
10. \***Ralph Venning** — *The Sinfulness of Sin*. This book will thoroughly acquaint the reader with the nature of sin in light of the greatness of God. It is a great aid to building a stronger hatred for the sin that God despises.
11. **Michael Riccardi** — *Sanctification*. Riccardi's regular blog writing has enabled him to pack lots of truth in a small amount of space. This book highlights this skill as he emphasizes both God and man's contributions to the sanctification process.
12. **Donald S. Whitney** — *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. In this book, Whitney helps the reader understand what are God's means of grace to the believer and how to use them in order to grow in godliness.
13. \***Jonathan Edwards** — *The Religious Affections*. In this work, Edwards helps readers discern between emotionalism and genuine workings of God's Spirit in conversion and ongoing sanctification.