Counseling: an Expression of the Ministry of the Church

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Abstract

This introductory article is designed to introduce the concepts of pastoral counseling to the Hispanic community, which frequently does not have a developed ministry of pastoral counseling in their churches. This article discusses the biblical basis for this ministry and helps define it in light of the strong relational nature and existing practice of advice giving found within Hispanic cultures. Seeing pastoral counseling as an extension of community care and as more closely related to the informal practice of giving advice, helps make the ministry of pastoral counseling and pastoral care more accessible to ministries within the Hispanic community.

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The Institute for Biblical Counseling and Discipleship is a ministry of Grace Bible Church of Escondido, but also includes counselors and leaders from other like-minded churches in our area. The main reason we counsel is so our trainees can observe live counseling. We also welcome the opportunity to come alongside local church leaders to address their difficult cases.