



GROUNDING IN GRACE

VOLUME 2 ISSUE #2

SUMMER 2014

Seminar: Dethroning the King from His Kingdom (A Christian Perspective on the Struggle of Addiction)

POINT TO PONDER

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

1st John 4:18-21

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I will be conducting a seminar on addictions from a Christian perspective. This seminar is for pastors, Christian counselors, and others in the helping profession. Below is the information:

Date: Monday, October 20, 2014

Time: 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Registration: 8:30 am

Location:

Center for Learning and Development

5039 Airport Center Parkway Building K (Left Side Entrance) Charlotte, NC 28208

Instructor: Steve Benson, MA, MDIV, LPC, LCAS-A

Description:

This seminar will provide introductory knowledge of drug addiction from a Christian perspective of creation, fall, and redemption. We will connect the spiritual understanding of Biblical idolatry to the symptoms of addiction. We will explore principles of working with addicted families including relational roles, boundaries, communication and strategies of prevention. Lastly, we will explore our own personal stories if we have been affected by the addicted family. My hope is that participants will journey through and know the redeeming power of the gospel story in their personal stories.

Objectives:

- Understand a Biblical view of addiction from Creation, fall and redemption

- Understand the emotion and spiritual stages of addiction.
- Examine addiction on the family unit including Relational roles, communication and boundaries.
- Honestly examine student's own story and the way the gospel relates to him or her if they have struggle with addiction in their own family story or others that they have known.

Credits: 6 CEU's NBCC available

Fee \$125.00 Pre-Registration (Before Oct.13) \$140.00 Registration

Breakfast & Lunch Provided

Contact: Jorge Rudko, Education Specialist

704.512.6576

Event # 43659

BOOK UPDATE:

THE OTHER SIDE: LOVING BEYOND BARRIERS AND EMBRACING AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS

The first draft has been edited by a talented woman named Jennie Kologe. I am now working on rewrites and hope to have the book done in the next few months.

I would like to have it published in the spring of 2015.

The book is a journey through finding ways to love others beyond their walls, living an emotionally healthy life, and becoming

authentic in our relationships. Some of the central themes are character development, redeeming conflict, forgiveness, and restoration.

Please pray that the Lord will guide us in the editing and rewrite process. I am hoping the Lord will open doors for seminars. If you are interested in hearing more, please contact me at sbenson317@gmail.com or at 704-778-2125.



Behind every author is a beautiful daughter!! :)

GRACE ROADS' CORE VALUES

Grace Roads Counseling Center started two years ago to provide grace-based counseling that honors people's dignity and offers them an opportunity to discover their story and find healing for their wounds. Below are our core values:

1. Counseling based upon the principles of creation, fall, and redemption

People have dignity because we are created in the image of God. We are designed to live in relational harmony with God, others, and ourselves. But because of the fall, we live self-protected, relational, co-dependent, and broken lives. We turn toward many substitutes in order to find fulfillment and hide from honesty in our relationships. Lastly, God is redeeming all things by his grace through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

2. Continual healing and the redemptive process

Counseling is one part of the healing and redemptive process. We integrate psychological knowledge and known theories such as cognitive behavioral, narrative and family systems filtered through a Christian worldview. Furthermore, this approach focuses on patterns of relating to others as a way of understanding how one thinks, believes, behaves, and feels about his or her life.

3. Careful but directive approach toward grace

We desire is to form genuine relationships with people and to provide a safe place for people to engage their souls in freedom and wrestle in openness. Our prayer is that each person may discover how to live with a holistic view of his or her own heart, to live an authentic life in this world, and to walk in the grace of God.

FALL COURSE: SEXUALITY AND THE CHRISTIAN



Steve will be teaching a course on sexuality from a Biblical perspective at New Life Theological Seminary. Through the lens of the gospel, we will understand the sexual union in the context of a bigger redemptive story. We will wrestle with the different situations that the Lord has placed us in as they relate to our sexuality. Lastly, we will see the way the gospel heals our sexual insanity and our personal stories.

Denver Location:

As a ministry to the community, Grace Roads has a partnership with Providence Church. Office hours are by appointment on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons.



(We are next to the Wendy's less than a half mile north of Business 16 and Highway 73.)

Providence Church
 274 North Highway 16, Suite 200
 Denver, NC 28037

SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS OF EMOTIONALLY MATURE PEOPLE
BY STEVE BENSON MA, MDIV, LPC, LCAS-A

1. Emotionally mature people make others a priority.

They treat others with dignity and respect even if they are not treated the same. They humbly relate to others in a way that communicates that it is a privilege to be in that person's presence instead of the other way around. They love others more than they love their reputation, power, control or agenda. In doing so, those around them experience the power and love of God.

2. Emotionally mature people invite feedback.

They believe that others are important enough to contribute to their lives in a significant way. Because of this fact, they invite people to enter the door of their souls in order to give them positive encouragements or insights without offense. But they also receive and meditate on constructive criticism without being defensive or dismissive. They know that these conversations will only provide opportunities for growth and maturity.

3. Emotionally mature people are consistent in their actions and words.

They are emotionally connected to their words. They are authentic and do not pretend to be someone they are not. They model what they say in public and in private. If they say it then they do it. And if they cannot fulfill their promises, they do not make excuses or blame-shift but let others know by asking forgiveness for their failure.

4. Emotionally mature people ask forgiveness for damage they caused and seek out reconciliation.

They confess to their weaknesses. This confession is not a ploy in an attempt to seek permission to do it again. It is given because they realize that their actions have caused some kind of damage to the image of God. They humbly desire to grow personally so they willingly initiate the process of forgiveness. They pour energy into the process of reconciliation no matter how long it takes because relationships are important to them.

5. Emotionally mature people are learners by investigating life.

They realize that they do not know everything about every subject. Because of this fact, they are learners of life, investigating other people's thoughts and understanding differing opinions. They thoughtfully and graciously give their positions on issues without taking it personally if the other party disagrees. They do not criticize differences without investigating the subject. They ask questions such as: What is the reason this person would come to that conclusion? How does this information improve my understanding on this subject?

GRACE ROADS
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**Finding Grace Along the
Roads of Life**

Vision: To provide teaching, training and counseling that will enable individuals, families and churches to experience God's powerful grace in transforming their stories.

Mission: to provide a pathway for people struggling on the journey to find hope for their broken hearts, healing for their wounds, and a hiding place to wrestle with the grace of God

www.groundedingrace.net

SEVEN CHARACTERISTICS OF EMOTIONALLY MATURE PEOPLE (CONTINUED)

6. Emotionally mature people cheer for others to succeed beyond their own accomplishments.

They delegate responsibility in order for others to feel the triumph of their accomplishments. They move out of the way. They are not micromanagers but enable others to use their gifts, talents, and abilities. They cheer others on when they succeed and walk with them when they fail. They live in the background without seeking the glory. They are not jealous. They are secret admirers of others' success and promote it beyond themselves.

7. Emotionally mature people live with a view of eternity.

They live beyond their own importance. They know that life is fleeting and fragile. They don't invest in their own kingdom, which will be gone tomorrow. They invest in something bigger than promoting themselves. They live with a view that every action they take and every word they speak can have a transforming affect on others. Because this is so, they speak with wisdom and act with an excellence that can only be measured by heaven's eternal reward.