

Introduction to Pastoral Care

Aim

To further an understanding of the pastoral ministry in relation to the personal and corporate needs of individuals and to promote growth in maturity.

Outline

Section A: Biblical foundations for pastoral care.

1. Patterns of the pastor's role, e.g. Ezekiel 34, John 14, 16, Ephesians 4, the Pastoral Epistles.
2. The pastoral role of the congregation, e.g., John 17, Acts 2, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4–6, Colossians 3–4.
3. Biblical insights on the nature of human individuals and human groups.
4. The maturity theme, individual and corporate, within the New Testament.
5. The distinction between pastoral care and pastoral counselling.

Section B: The demands made by crisis situations, for example: illness, alcoholism and drug dependence, youth homelessness and delinquency, marriage problems, terminal illness, death, bereavement.

Section C: Pastoral care with small groups and families; the local church and the helping professions; preventative care.

Section D: Developing skills in pastoral care.

1. Upbuilding skills; teaching, encouragement, recognition of gifts.
2. Coping with negativity, e.g. criticism, gossip, scapegoating.
3. Individual 'discipling'.
4. Pastoring the pastors.