The Counsel of Heaven on Earth: Foundations for Biblical Christian Counseling by Ian F. Jones

A Valuable New Contribution To The Field

The Counsel of Heaven on Earth provides a helpful introductory look at the principles of biblical Christian counseling based on models found in the books of Genesis and Isaiah. It also includes extensive survey research plus insight from personal counseling experiences that author Ian F. Jones encountered at Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, where a gunman killed seven people and wounded many others in September 1999. Broadening his audience, Jones also addresses the debate between biblical/nouthetic counselors and Christian/integrationist counselors, inviting all professionals to consider his fresh biblical Christian counseling approach.

My Personal Review:
In "The Counsel of Heaven on Earth," professor Ian Jones outlines the essential features of biblical counseling. He clearly demonstrates how from cover to cover, the Bible provides Christian counselors with the blueprint for developing an effective counseling ministry.

His primary model, not surprisingly, is Jesus, the Counselor of heaven on earth. In particular, he highlights Jesus' greatest commandment(s): to love God and others. This guiding commandment of redemption builds upon an understanding of creation (the starting place for biblical counseling), and the fall (lostness and the human condition). Jones fleshes out his CFR (Creation, Fall, Redemption) model through personal illustrations, counseling narratives, and descriptions of counseling in the local church.

This is a valued addition to the field of biblical counseling that is well-balanced, practical, and theologically-sound.

Reviewer: Robert W. Kellemen, Ph.D., is the author of Soul Physicians: A Theology of Soul Care And Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Friends: A
Methodology of Soul Care And Spiritual Direction, Beyond the Suffering: Embracing the Legacy of African American Soul Care and Spiritual Direction, "Biblical Psychology," and "Martin Luther's Counseling."

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