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The Biblical Basis of Christian Counseling for People Helpers: Relating the Basic Teachings of
Scripture to People's Problems (Pilgrimage Growth Guide)

8. God and Counseling

This chapter argues that a Christian counselor's view of God is central to how they counsel. Most people believe in God but let Him make little real difference in their decisions. The author walks through whether God exists, what He is like, and how His nature bears directly on helping people.

Key takeaways

- Most Americans say they believe in God, but they treat themselves, not God, as the authority on right and wrong.
- You can't prove God's existence with 100% certainty, but the evidence points strongly to Him; the Bible never argues for God, it just assumes Him ('In the beginning, God').
- We tend to become like our mental image of God, so a distorted picture (often shaped by absent or harsh parents) damages both counselor and counselee.
- Knowing about God is not the same as knowing God; the second comes through Scripture, obedience, and lived relationship.

- God's attributes split into His greatness (omnipresence, omniscience, omnipotence, immutability) and His goodness (holiness, love, truth).
- God is personal (not a 'force'), triune, transcendent, and holy, and He is active as both Sustainer and Redeemer of creation.
- Don't build a whole theology on one attribute: 'God is love' is true, but He is also holy, just, and truthful. Bishop Robinson's error was making love the only rule.
- Faulty views of God (toxic faith, cults, heresy) seriously harm people; correcting them gives real hope.

Passages worth keeping

“Worship changes the worshiper into the image of the One worshiped.”

The chapter's core logic: spending time with God reshapes us, which is why knowing Him matters for counseling.

“It is impossible to keep our moral practices sound and our inward attitudes right while our idea of God is erroneous and inadequate.”

Tozer's point that a wrong picture of God corrupts everything downstream.

How it connects

The chapter ties everything back to Mark 12:28-31, the greatest commandment: rightly relating to God is life's most fundamental question, and it shapes the whole worldview a counselor works from.

Scripture referenced

- **John 17:3** -- Knowing God is why we exist / eternal life
- **1 John 4:8** -- God is love, the attribute the chapter examines most
- **Romans 1:18-21** -- God has made Himself plain even to unbelievers
- **Proverbs 13:20** -- We become like those we spend time with
- **John 1:1,14,18** -- God revealed through His Son; no one has seen God directly
- **Colossians 1:16-17** -- God sustains and holds creation together