



**Southeastern**  
Baptist Theological Seminary

**Biblical Counseling Ph.D. Entrance Exam Study Guide**

The Ph.D. Entrance Exam in Biblical Counseling will consist of essay questions in two parts, each part approximately 3 hours in length.

The exam will be closed book, so you will not be allowed to use any resources other than the writing instruments you bring with you and the writing paper and instructional materials that will be provided in your exam folder.

Applicants are expected to be prepared to write for 90 minutes on any of the following questions. Essays will be assessed according to the following criteria:

**Relevance and Argumentation**

- Students should give careful attention to the question and outline refined arguments. Student should incorporate & critically interact with relevant resources related to the field.

**Writing Mechanics**

- Students' responses should be intelligent, and precise. Reasonable arrangement of paragraphs and ideas should enhance a reader's understanding. Responses should be focused, and vocabulary varied. Responses should contain very few grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

**Awareness of Relevant Scholarship**

- Students should show awareness of seminal sources, major figures and pivotal events related to the field and incorporate and properly interact with resources related to the question.

## Reading List:

Akin, Daniel L., ed. *A Theology for the Church*. Revised ed. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2014.

OR

Erickson, Millard J. *Christian Theology*. 3 ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.

OR

Grudem, Wayne. *Systematic Theology: an Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1994.

Adams, Jay E. *A Theology of Christian Counseling: More Than Redemption*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1986.

Powlison, David. *Seeing with New Eyes: Counseling and the Human Condition through the Lens of Scripture*. Phillipsburg, N.J.: Presbyterian & Reformed Pub Co, 2003.

Powlison, David. *The Biblical Counseling Movement: History and Context*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2010.

Lambert, Heath. *The Biblical Counseling Movement After Adams*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2011.

Piper, John, ed. *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2006.

OR

Carson, D.A. *How Long, o Lord? Reflections On Suffering and Evil*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2006

McMinn, Mark R. *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling: an Integrative Paradigm*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2008.

Köstenberger, Andreas J., and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family (Second Edition): Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2 ed. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2010.

Elliott, Matthew A. *Faithful Feelings: Rethinking Emotion in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2006.

Welch, Edward T. *Counselor's Guide to the Brain and Its Disorders: Knowing the Difference between Disease and Sin*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1991. (available only at ccef.org as an e-book)

## Questions

### **A. Biblical/Theological Foundations in Biblical Counseling**

1. In view of a biblical theology of sin and suffering, discuss how each should be understood and would affect your assessment and counsel of a person with a major mental disorder.
2. Describe the roles and relationships within the Trinity and how they would inform a distinctly Christian perspective in individual, marital, and family counseling. Provide essential biblical texts that justify your perspective.
3. Articulate an evangelical doctrine of revelation (both special and general), then explain why and how this would impact a Christian psychology.
4. In view of the mission of God and the role of the church, locate biblical counseling on the mental health map. Provide essential biblical texts that justify your perspective.

### **B. The Practice of Biblical Counseling**

5. Describe and differentiate the roles of counselor, counselee, and God in the process of biblical counseling.
6. Discuss the similarities and differences in counseling a believer versus a non-believer, particularly your priorities and resources in counseling.

### **C. Marriage & Family Issues**

7. Compare complementarianism versus egalitarianism in marriage. State your personal conviction on this subject and its practical ramifications for you as a marital counselor.
8. State and defend your perspective on divorce and remarriage. In view of your ecclesiology, discuss how this would impact your role and counsel when separation and/or divorce are an issue for a couple you are working with.

### **D. Mental/Emotional Disorders**

9. Provide a biblical understanding of emotions and discuss how you would attend to yours and the counselee's in a client with bipolar disorder.
10. Discuss the role of medication in treating mental/emotional disorders. State your personal conviction on this subject and defend your position on biblical and professional grounds.

### **E. Biblical Counseling Models & History**

11. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of the Biblical Counseling model and movement; articulate a biblical, theological, and practical remedy for the weaknesses.
12. Articulate the changes within the Biblical Counseling movement from Jay Adams up until the present day. Briefly appraise the most significant changes, persons, and organizations within the movement.

