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| SESSION FIVE | The Essential Philosophy of a Cross-Cultural Ministry |

**PART ONE**

1. **A Personal Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Ministry**
   1. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
2. **Practical: Made Myself a Slave to All, So That I May Win More**
   1. Personal: made myself a slave
   2. Particular: to all
      1. Pre-evangelism
   3. Purpose: become all things to all men so that I may win more (to the same liberty) – pre-evangelism relationship

**PART TWO**

1. **A Corporate (Church) Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Ministry**
   1. Acts 20
   2. A philosophy or theology of ministry: why we do what we do.
   3. Non-negotiable biblical principles that guide decision-making.
   4. The foundation determines the superstructure.
   5. An articulated philosophy of ministry provides a unified direction.
2. **Preparation for Your Corporate Cross-Cultural Philosophy of Ministry**
   1. Preparatory building blocks
      1. Purposeful meetings
      2. Extraordinary place and position
      3. Extraordinary example to the flock
      4. Extraordinary attitude: humility
      5. Extraordinary consequences
      6. Extraordinary dangers
      7. Extraordinary means: Scripture
      8. Extraordinary pattern: all three
3. **Concluding Statements/Guidelines for the Church That Wants to Fulfil Its God-Given Responsibility in the Area of Counselling Must:**
   1. Have leaders who practice biblical counselling among themselves
   2. Have leaders who see the importance of this ministry and are enthusiastic about it.
   3. Have leaders who understand biblical counselling and are capable of doing it, teaching it, and modelling it.
   4. Have someone who oversees and gives direction to this aspect of the church’s ministry.
   5. Encourage the leadership of this ministry to research the Scriptures, read solid biblical literature, and attend conferences on biblical counselling.
   6. Encourage the leaders of this ministry to seek certification in ACBC.
   7. Think through the purposes of this ministry and include that purpose in its constitution or by-laws.
   8. Have members who are well-grounded doctrinally and who understand how theology relates to the problems of people.
   9. Encourage new believers and new members to become involved with a more mature Christian for help in normal discipleship and in the process of remedial discipleship.
   10. Provide classes, seminars, Sunday School classes, and sermons on husband-wife relations, parent-child relations, employer-employee relations, how to communicate, how to handle your finances, how to deal with destructive emotions, conflict resolution, biblical restoration, etc.
   11. Stock its library with solid biblically accurate books and tapes and videos on biblical living, problem solving, and Christian counselling.
   12. Provide training programs designed to equip people for evangelism and counselling.
   13. Practice the discipline process described in Matthew 18:15-17 and many other passages of Scripture. They must understand that church discipline is a loving, helpful, and essential part of the spiritual growth process for individuals and the church.
   14. Lovingly and firmly confront people who are caught in any trespass rather than ignoring these people and their problems as though there were no answers to these problems nor accountability for their continuance
   15. Not overload any of its members, pastors, elders, or lay people with church responsibilities so that they are hindered from fulfilling their family responsibilities and doing what is necessary to develop their own spiritual lives.
   16. Promote the idea that God’s people need to be, and should expect to be, lovingly confronted as well as encouraged and comforted by other Christians. In other words, the church that wants to develop a counselling ministry should have a balance between comforting and confronting the saints.
   17. Understand that counselling is a part or an aspect of the churches well-rounded ministry for building up God’s people and not separate from the rest of the church’s ministries.
   18. Regard counselling as another way in which God’s Word may be effectively ministered to people; as a complement to the public preaching and teaching ministry of the church; it is not to be regarded as more important or less important than other ways of ministering God’s Word to people.
   19. Develop a list of professionals who have certain areas of expertise and can assist on certain matters, but who will not undermine the philosophy and commitments of the church’s counselling ministry.
   20. Provide funds for purchasing counselling materials, counselling forms, books, and tapes that can be used for equipping counsellors or for homework assignments for counsellees.
   21. Prayerfully think through and establish policies and guidelines for the practical operation of the ministry.
   22. Expose the errors of pseudo-Christian counselling practices that have displaced the Word of God.
       1. Christian psychology
       2. Integrated Christian counselling
       3. Theopoetic prayer counselling
       4. Deliverance ministry (demon and generational courses)
       5. Alcoholics Anonymous