

Abounding in Hope and Able to Counsel
Romans 15:13-14

Many models of psychotherapy.¹

Virtually all models prove moderately _____.²

Erica Goode and Betsy Wagner. “Scientists have failed, in study after study, to demonstrate the superiority of any major therapeutic school....”³

More recent research.⁴

Erica Goode and Betsy Wagner. “If no one technique can claim pre-eminence, what makes therapy successful?”⁵

Answer: “...common factors that many approaches share.”⁶

Most basic factor: “_____ relationship”

Hans Strupp. “Psychotherapy is the systematic use of a **human relationship** for therapeutic purposes.”⁷

¹ Medicine psychiatrist, Byram Karasu, “gave up counting at 400.” (Erica Goode and Betsy Wagner, *U.S. News & World Report*, Vol. 114 Issue 20, p. 56, 5/24/93)

² Psychologists Michael Lambert and Allen Bergin write, “There is...little doubt that psychological treatments are, overall and in general, beneficial, although it remains equally true that not everyone benefits to a satisfactory degree.” (*U.S. News & World Report*, vol. 114 Issue 20, p. 56, 5/24/93)

³ Ibid.

⁴ In 2012, Margaret McCoy Lynch writes, “Numerous studies have concluded that regardless of the therapeutic modality, most approaches can produce positive change and that there is no one superior method for effective therapy.” (Lynch, Margaret McCoy. (2012). *Factors Influencing Successful Psychotherapy Outcomes*. Retrieved from Sophia, the St. Catherine University repository website: https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw_papers/57, p. 13)

⁵ Erica Goode and Betsy Wagner, *U.S. News & World Report*.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

Margaret Lynch. "...the **relationship** built...between therapist and client [is] one of the keys, if not the key, to the change process....a relationship built on trust, acceptance, and empathy."⁸

"...when clients are accounting for their improvement they do not emphasize particular treatment modalities, but primarily emphasize the **relationship** they formed with their therapist."⁹

Jordan Peterson in *12 Rules for Life*¹⁰. "Psychotherapy is genuine conversation....When you are involved in a genuine conversation, you're listening, and talking—but mostly listening. Listening is paying attention. It's amazing what people will tell you if you listen. Sometimes if you listen to people they will even tell you what is wrong with them...."¹¹

"In my clinical practice, I talk and listen. I talk more to some people, and listen more to others. Many of the people I listen to have no one else to talk to. Some of them are truly alone in the world. There are far more people like that than you think. You don't meet them, because they are alone."¹²

Encouragement. If the common ingredient that makes all models of psychotherapy at least somewhat helpful is a caring human being who is willing to listen and talk and help, then the _____ should be a dynamic place that is bristling with power to help people. Those of us who have been saved by Christ are called to be quick to listen and slow to talk, and when we talk we speak the truth in love. And the truth we speak is the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God into salvation to everyone who believes.

Charles Colson (quoting a secular prison psychiatrist). "I can cure somebody's madness, but I can't do anything about his badness. Psychiatry, properly administered, can turn a schizophrenic bank robber into a mentally healthy bank robber; a good teacher can turn an illiterate criminal into an educated criminal. But they are still bank robbers and criminals."¹³

⁸ Lynch, 1.

⁹ Ibid, 14.

¹⁰ Jordan Peterson, *12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos*, Random House Canada, 2018. Doug Wilson characterizes Peterson's book in the following way: "It consists of pockets of silliness connected by long stretches of common grace on fire." <https://twitter.com/douglaswils/status/977627682992160768?lang=en>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Charles Colson, *Loving God*, Zondervan, 1996, 121.

Romans 15. “(13) Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (14) And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.”

Sandlay and Headlam. “these words give a hint of St. Paul’s aim in this Epistle.”¹⁴

ESV & NIV of v. 14. “able...to **instruct** one another”

Amplified Bible of v. 14. “competent to **admonish** and **counsel** and **instruct** one another.”¹⁵

William Hendriksen. “Today the word ‘counseling’ is heard again and again. Ever so many books and articles have been written about it. ...The apostle here reveals that...there was mutual counseling already in his day, and it was of a high character. By and large the members of the Roman church were ‘competent to admonish one another.’”¹⁶

6 Actions

*...of the Apostle Paul toward the Roman Christians
to encourage them to minister the counsel of Christ to one another*

#1 He _____ them with the gospel.

- A. Romans 1:15 (lit.). “I am eager to **evangelize** you who are at Rome....”
- B. Romans 1:18. “the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.”
- C. Romans 1-11.
 - Romans 1-3:20.

¹⁴ Sandlay and Headlam, in A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Volume 4, Broadman Press, 419.

¹⁵ *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, The Lockman Foundation, 1987.

¹⁶ William Hendriksen. *Romans*, Baker Bookhouse, 1981, 484-485.

- Romans 3:21ff – 5:21.
- Romans 5:2. “we exult in **hope** of the glory of God.”
- Romans 5:3-5: “(3)...tribulation brings about...(3)...hope; (5) and **hope** does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
- Romans 6-8
 - “freed from sin” (6:7)
 - “freed from sin” (6:18)
 - “freed from sin” (6:22)
 - No condemnation (8:1)
 - Made sons of God (8:15).
 - Spirit of God indwells us (8:11)
 - Destined for glory (8:17-18)
 - Explosion of hope (8:20-25)
 - “hope” (v. 20)
 - “hope...hope...hope...hopes” (v. 24)
 - “hope” (v. 25)
- Romans 9-11

#2 He calls upon them to _____ out the gospel in _____ with one another.

- A. Romans 12:1. “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [pl.] a living and holy sacrifice [sg.], acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.”¹⁷
- B. Romans 12:2. “...be transformed by the renewing of your mind”
- C. Romans 12:3 (literal). “For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to THINK more highly of himself than he ought to THINK; but to THINK so as to have sane THINKING, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”
- D. Romans 12:12. “rejoicing in hope”

¹⁷ “The shift from the plural *somata* (“bodies”) to the singular *thusian* (“sacrifice”) could indicate that Paul thinks of this presentation as having a corporate dimension, involving the service of the entire Christian community together.” (Douglas Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996).

#3 He calls upon them to _____ one another despite their _____.

- A. Romans 13:8. “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another...”
- B. Romans 14:1. “...accept the one who is weak in faith.”
- C. Romans 14:10. “Why do you judge your brother? Or why do you regard your brother with contempt?”
- D. Romans 14:14. “Let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this – not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.”
- E. Romans 14:15. “For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food **him for whom Christ died.**”
- F. Romans 14:19. “...pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”
- G. Romans 15:7. “...accept one another, just as Christ accepted us to the glory of God.”
- H. Romans 12:1. “I urge you, **brethren.**”

#4 He expresses his prayer that God would cause them to _____ in _____.

- A. Romans 15:13. “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.”
- B. Boris Becker. “I had won Wimbledon twice, once as the youngest player. I was rich.... I had all the material possessions I needed, but I had no inner peace.”¹⁸
- C. Sophia Loren. “In my life there is an emptiness that is impossible to fulfill.”¹⁹

¹⁸ <https://odb.org/1994/07/09/whats-missing/>

¹⁹ Timothy Keller, *Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions*, Penguin Books, 2013, 28)

D. Romans 15:13. “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, **so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**”

E. Hope is essential in counseling and ministry.²⁰

F. Hope might be in short supply in other places, but Paul wants hope to be in rich supply in the _____, as it overflows from one person to another and then beyond.

#5 He expresses confidence that they are full of _____ and _____.

A. Romans 15:14. “*And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness....*”

- Romans 15:15. “I have written very boldly to you on some points....”
- The “weaknesses” and “blemishes” Paul sees in them do “not diminish his high regard for” them.²¹
- “goodness” = that which is helpful, beneficial, and of practical good.

B. Romans 15:14. “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, **filled with all knowledge....**”

- “knowledge” = “knowledge of the gospel.”²²

²⁰ From Wayne Mack: “Biblical change cannot take place without hope.”

From Joshua Waulk: “In my years of work as both a police officer, and now a biblical counselor, I have found that one common thread running through most, if not all interactions with people seeking help is their desire for *hope*. Whatever circumstance they face, they seek the assurance that things can change for the better.... Whatever else the counselor seeks to accomplish in the life of their counselee, the responsibility to impart Christ-centered hope in each and every session is of first importance (1 Thessalonians 5:14).” (*biblicalcounselingcoalition.org*, “*The Centrality of Hope in Counseling Biblically*,” May 19, 2015)

²¹ Hendriksen, 484.

- How can Paul say this?

C. What Paul says here is true for every believer in Christ who has read and internalized the contents of the _____ of _____.

#6 He expresses confidence regarding their ability to _____ one another.

A. Romans 15:14. “And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge **and able also to admonish one another.**”

B. “admonish” = “mind” (*nou*) + “put” (*theteō*)

- “put sense into”²³
- “influencing the *nous* [the mind],”²⁴

C. Always implies a problem in the person being admonished:

- Discouragement
- Ignorance
- Forgetfulness
- Waywardness

D. Reciprocal. “admonish **one another.**”

E. James Edwards. “[This passage] is quite literally a testimony to the priesthood of all believers and to the goodness and knowledge on which that priesthood depends.”²⁵

F. “If you are a Christian, welcome to the priesthood. Welcome to the _____ team of your local church.”

²² James Edwards, *Romans: New International Biblical Commentary*, Hendrickson Publishers, 1992, 344.

²³ A.T. Robertson, in *Competent to Counsel*, by Jay Adams, Zondervan, 1970, 44.

²⁴ Cremer, in Jay Adams, *Competent to Counsel*, 45.

²⁵ James Edwards, 344.

From Ed Welch

Ed Welch. “No longer do people need a special...anointing to offer a prophetic word of direction and wisdom. Now we are part of the new covenant in which the Spirit has been given to all who have put their faith in Jesus.”²⁶

“God is pleased to have the church mature through the ministry of weak people who seem unqualified in the world’s eyes. Most likely this is already happening in your church. People share their struggles with each other. People pray with each other. This is certainly happening with the women in the church; sometimes it is happening with the men. [We] want it to happen more, and with growing love and wisdom.”²⁷

Counseling as defined by Ed Welch: “...wise and helpful conversations—*that* is counseling.... We all need this and need to give it.”²⁸

Encouragements

1. Realize that the _____ is the richest place where a person can experience the blessings of both giving and receiving the counsel of Christ in practical ways.
2. Get involved in the lives of others.
3. Be very careful and _____.
4. _____.
5. Get _____.

²⁶ “Pastor: Equip Your People to Counsel Each Other,” (February 19, 2019) at <https://ftc.co/resource-library/blog-entries/equip-your-people-to-counsel-each-other>

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

6. Go _____ your friend to a counselor.
7. Be willing to engage in “meaningful conversations.”
8. _____.