



HOPE FOR LIFE

BIBLICAL COUNSELING & EQUIPPING

for everything
that was written in the past was
written to teach us
so that through endurance and
the encouragement of the Scriptures
we might have
hope.

[romans 15:4]

FALL 2007

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT PRINCIPLE #14 "The Created & Inflated *NEED* Principle"

A created or inflated *need* arises whenever someone elevates a relative need or normal desire (even a *sinful desire*) into an all-important *need*—often with the pretext that fulfilling this particular "need" will lead to happiness, a resolution to problems, or the ever-elusive "utopia on earth." Here then is the gist of the thinking behind much of the current "needology":

"This unmet need is preventing you from ____ and is causing your problem of _____. If you could just get this need met, then _____."

This deceptive ruse, like many others, was established long ago in the garden:

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil." [Genesis 3:4]

Like Adam and Eve, we, as believers, have "**everything** we need for life and godliness" [2 Pet 1:3]. Therefore, the deceiver's goal is (as it has always been) to create a "need" or inflate a desire that distracts from and diminishes *the* greatest realities for every Christian—the sufficiency of God and His Word.

Some modern-day examples: "You need faith plus ____ to be saved," or, "The Bible is 'good,' but we need ____ to solve the deeper problems of life." Sometimes these cons are subtle; but, they are becoming increasingly overt and brazen because of the church's acceptance of the world's "needology." Perhaps one of the most unashamed examples of this principle comes straight from the thesis of a book which is arguably *the* most popular book for *Christian* marriages today:

"A wife has one driving need – *to feel loved*. When that need is met, she is happy.

A husband has one driving need – *to feel respected*. When that need is met, he is happy."

[Eggerichs, *Love & Respect*
Back cover, emphasis in original]

Sadly, in spite of such blatant attacks upon the sufficiency of God and His Word, even strong believers fail to detect these flagrant errors. And even more fail to stand up against such heresy.

NEW CLASS STARTING

After finishing up the summer session of *Equipped For Life & Love*, we're getting ready for a new fall class, starting the end of September.

We are once again being graciously hosted by Sierra Heights Baptist Church in Fresno. Thank you, Tom and Edna Harvey! We will meet on Monday evenings, beginning September 24th.

Flyers for the class are available at our website, as well as a new option to register and pay for the class online.

This training is truly a life transforming experience, as we learn from God's Word how to meet the challenges of life in godly and Biblical ways.

We would love to have you join us if you are in the Fresno area. For more details, visit hopeforlifeonline.com

- Dramatically deepen your understanding and love for God and His truth
- Be equipped with everything you need to handle the challenges and difficulties of life
- Learn how to practically apply Biblical principles and discernment
- Revolutionize your relationships
- Be empowered to come alongside others with the help and healing of Scripture

RECENT CLASS TESTIMONIES [equipped for life & love]

"On a scale of zero to ten, this class was a ten. I don't give tens lightly, but it is *life changing!*"

"I thought my God was pretty big, but I am reminded that He is even bigger."

"Everyone needs to benefit from developing a Biblical perspective and framework for living life – this class challenges us to do just that!"

"The training is an eye opener. All those who love the Lord should go through a course like this."

"The clarity of the material and illumination of the Word of God is life-changing."

"This training will be paying huge dividends in my life and in others that the Lord has put in my life."