

PeaceWorks University

Toolbox Item: *Build Involvement - Perpetrator Confrontation*

Throughout 2022, PWU members will receive access to one video each month (twelve total) from Chris Moles in which he will introduce one of the six key elements of biblical counseling (*Gather Data, Build Involvement, Evaluate Problems Biblically, Minister the Word, Instill Hope, and Implement Homework*) and apply that key element to the specific practice of either victim care or perpetrator confrontation. After completing the *Key Elements of Biblical Counseling Success Path*, PWU members will be able to articulate each of the six key elements of biblical counseling and apply those elements to the particular needs of counselees, both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

PWU members will also receive access to one new Toolbox item each month corresponding to the key element of biblical counseling being taught and applied in that month's Success Path video (see above). Our hope is that these Toolbox items will give you practical tools to use as you incorporate these key elements into your own counseling ministry.

Principles of Building Involvement in Perpetrator Confrontation

1. Be aware of the condition of their sin and their life.
 - a. What are their abusive behaviors?
 - b. What is the impact of their abusive behaviors on their family?
 - c. What is motivating their abusive behaviors?

2. Become a spiritual companion or guide.
 - a. Be available.
 - b. Take seriously the counselee's abusive behaviors and their impact on his victim(s).
 - c. Emphasize God's grace and mercy while firmly holding-on to the counselee's need for confession and repentance.
 - d. Look for ways to help the counselee self-reflect and see their story and sin from God's perspective.
 - e. Be an encouragement toward growth.

3. Be genuine and honest about your biblical worldview and counseling agenda.

4. Walk compassionately with the counselee throughout the duration of the counseling process.

5. Confront sin as you challenge the counselee to grow and change.

Additional Building Involvement Considerations When Counseling Abuse Perpetrators

1. One significant risk when counseling perpetrators is the potential for collusion (joining in or approving of the abusive man's distorted and/or deceptive narrative). While it is possible and desirable to build involvement while serving these men, this risk must be noted, and care taken to avoid and prevent collusion.
2. The counselor is entering into the counseling relationship with a clear, purposeful agenda: to see the abuse end, to see the victim(s) safe, and to (through the process of discipleship) call this man to respond to the gospel with genuine and lasting repentance, as he turns from sin to righteousness.
3. Biblical counselors must engage with their counselees from a place of love as they reflect the love of God shown in Christ (1 John 4:7-11). When counseling perpetrators, this love will often take the form of gentle, kind (but also clear and truthful) confrontation as the counselor calls their counselee to repentance. In many cases, the counselor will even be required to exercise love by explaining, enacting, and enforcing consequences that must rightly occur as a result of the perpetrator's sinful choices.