

Interview Assessment #3

Name of Professional: LoriAnn Bailey

Profession: Biblical Counselor

Company: North Texas Christian Counseling

Date of Interview: 20 October, 2020

Getting to meet with LoriAnn Bailey opened my eyes to Biblical Counseling and the types of situations that she sees on a weekly basis. I began our interview by asking her how she would go about a session with a brand new counselee. She told me to utilize the first few sessions as a time to truly get to know the client. A Biblical counselor's job is to allow the client to feel comfortable and safe, that way they are willing to open up and progress can start to be made. Ms. Bailey said that a question she always asks a person when they are starting is, "What do you want out of counseling?" All people are different and may be going to counseling for a number of reasons, however it is good to figure out where the person is at with counseling to see if they truly have the desire to improve. Next, she explained the best way of figuring out the root of a problem, especially in biblical counseling, is seeking the heart and helping the person find their heart issue. A lot of times people's problems lead back to their heart and true persona, and cannot be fixed by following a series of steps. This is when the counselor gets to help the counselee find the true heart problem and use the

Lord to help them heal. This point led to another question I asked her about getting too involved in a client's personal life. As human beings, we are going to get sad and want to sympathize with people, however as a Biblical Counselor it's important to realize that the burden of this person can be given to the Lord. Jesus is all powerful and can handle any problem we throw at him, so utilizing prayer as a counselor will not only help counselors to guide the counselee, but will also allow them to have the burden of the counselee lifted off of their shoulders and taken on by Christ. Ms. Bailey explained the importance of remembering that as a counselor you are not going through this process alone, God is there to help guide you as you go. Along with God's willingness to guide counselors through the counseling process, it's also important for a counselor to remember that even with God's help, you will not be able to fully solve the counselee's problem for them, you are ultimately guiding the person to Jesus, by Jesus. Ms. Bailey explained this because it's a good reminder to all counselors who feel like they have to have the perfect solution to every counselee's problem, sometimes just guiding them to Christ will be enough. Finally, Ms. Bailey explained to me something she lives by as a reminder about how we should act towards others as a Christian. She began by explaining the difference between showing kindness and being nice. She used this in the context of homosexuality. First off, she explained how some people believe that Christians should have a soft interior and sharp edges. In other words when it comes to homosexuality, Christians either act judgemental and have "sharp edges" causing

them to have a “soft center” that is not strong in their faith and can be easily warped by judgement. Then she explained how people are “nice” when they have soft edges and a soft middle, therefore accepting things that they know is wrong because they are too worried to come across as judgemental. Then, Ms. Bailey explained what kindness looks like as a Christian when dealing with something like homosexuality. It’s not being judgemental and having a soft core or being what she defined as “nice” and having a soft core and soft edges, it’s having the soft edges and a strong core. Overall meaning that Christians should be kind to people and not judgemental even if they disagree with someone, but also standing strong in their Christian roots and remembering what the Lord says to be true. In this case, not supporting homosexuality but still loving people who claim to be homosexuals because that is what Jesus calls us to do. Overall, Ms. Bailey taught me a whole lot about Biblical Counseling in such a short period of time and I am truly thankful that I got to meet her.