



A HISTORY OF THE CARE OF SOULS:

Lessons for Today from the Bible and Church History

by

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Some definitions compiled by Lyle Dorsett

- Gregory of Nyssa: “The life of the body is the soul. The life of the soul is the spirit. The life of spirit is communion with Christ.”
- J. T. McNeill: “The soul is the essence of the human personality.”
- Watchman Nee: “The spirit and the soul are two totally different organs: one belongs to God, while the other belongs to man.”



History of the Care of Souls

- I. Purpose of Soul Care: Transformation in the Likeness of Christ to bring Glory to God.

- II. Elements of Soul Care:
 - A. Knowledge of God and self

 - B. Conversion from self-centeredness to God-centeredness

 - C. Intensive follow-up to preserve the newborn person

 - D. Life-long nurture or soul care including:
 1. Healing

 2. Growth/preventive care

 3. Reproduction

III. Environments Necessary for Sound Soul Care:

A. Family

B. Church

C. Small groups

IV. Primary Methods

A. Theocentric worship and administration of sacraments in a healthy church manifesting the gifts of the Spirit.

B. Utilization of all the senses (hearing, smell, touch, sight, taste): hymns, singing, Holy Communion, arts, etc.

C. Proclamation of Scripture

D. Teaching/Education (see Hosea 4:6 and Dorsett, "Lost Tools of Teaching")

E. Confession/Repentance

F. Accountability

G. Compassionate outreach to marginalized – e.g. widows, orphans, aliens

H. Evangelism/Missions

I. Healing/Deliverance

CALLING AND PREPARATION OF SOUL PHYSICIANS

- 1) Evidence of a keen sense of calling affirmed by the church

- 2) Training from church and church-affiliated institutions and programs in:
 1. Scripture/doctrine/theology

 2. Understanding people/personal work

 3. Prayer/Spirit centeredness

 4. Evangelism/disciple-making

 5. Spiritual formation

 6. Spiritual gifts/warfare

 7. Love for church and community

8. Internship/mentoring [Robert E. Coleman's The Master Plan of Evangelism provides a helpful approach.]

1. Selection

2. Association

3. Consecration

4. Impartation

5. Demonstration

6. Delegation

7. Supervision

8. Reproduction

3) Ongoing accountability/transparency with overseers/mentors/spiritual directors

4) Ongoing spiritual direction and education

Care of Souls

Suggested Readings\Dr. Lyle W. Dorsett



Asbury, Francis	<u>Journals in 3 volumes</u>
Ashley, B. M.	<u>Spiritual Direction in the Dominican Tradition</u>
Baxter, Richard	<u>The Reformed Pastor</u>
Benner, David	<u>Care of Souls (1998)</u>
Boa, Kenneth	<u>Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation</u>
Bonhoeffer, Dietrich	<u>Spiritual Care (1938)</u>
Calvin, John	<u>Letters (n.d.)</u>
Catherine of Sienna	<u>Letters (n.d.)</u>
Chambers, Oswald	<u>The Cure of Souls (1904)</u>
Clebesch and Jaekle	<u>Pastoral Care in Historical Perspective (1975)</u>
Doddridge, Philip	<u>The Rise and Progress of Religion of the Soul (1843)</u>
Escott, Harry	<u>P. T. Forsyth and the Cure of Souls</u>
Francis de Sales	<u>Introduction to the Devout Life</u>
Francis de Sales	<u>The Spiritual Director of Devout and Religious Souls (n.d.)</u>
Gregory the Great	<u>The Book of Pastoral Care (538)</u>
Hansen, David	<u>A Little Handbook on Having a Soul (1997)</u>
Holman, Charles	<u>The Cure of Souls (1932)</u>
Keble, John	<u>Letters of Spiritual Counsel (1993)</u>
Keller, Philip W.	<u>A Shepherd Looks at the 23rd Psalm (1970)</u>
Lea, Henry C.	<u>A History of Auricular Confession (1896) 2 volumes</u>
Lea, Henry C.	<u>History of Confession and Indulgences (1894) 2 volumes</u>

Loyola, Ignatius	<u>Spiritual Exercises</u>
Luther, Martin	<u>Letters</u> (n.d.)
MacLaren, Ian	<u>The Cure of Souls</u> (1896)
McNeill, John T.	<u>A History of the Cure of Souls</u> (1951)
Gary Moon and David Benner, eds.	<u>Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls</u> (2004)
Moorman, John R. H.	<u>The Anglican Spiritual Tradition</u>
Mulholland, Robert	<u>Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for</u>
Mulholland, Robert	<u>Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in</u> <u>Spiritual Formation</u>
Nebe, August	<u>Luther as Spiritual Adviser</u>
Peterson, Eugene	<u>The Contemplative Pastor</u> (1989), Chapter 6: “Curing Souls: The Forgotten Art”
Pusey, Edward B.	<u>Advice to Those Who Exercise the Ministry of</u> <u>Reconciliation through Confession and</u> <u>Absolution</u> (1878)
Quasten and Plumpe	<u>Ancient Christian Writers</u>
Satinover, Jeffery	<u>Feathers of a Skylark: Compulsion, Sin, and Our</u> <u>Need for a Messiah</u> (1996)
Symonds, Joseph	<u>The Case and Cure of a Deserted Soul</u> (1671)
St. Therese of Lisieux	<u>Autobiography</u>
Underhill, Evelyn	<u>Concerning the Inner Life</u> (1926)
Underhill, Evelyn	<u>The House of the Soul</u> (1933)
Underhill, Evelyn	<u>Mystics of the Church</u>
Webb, Walter	<u>The Cure of Souls</u> (1910)
Wesley, John	<u>Letters and Journals</u> (n.d.)