

# Transforming Life 2

Biblical counseling services of Nashville

## Week Seven: Fallen Vessel

A Biblical Look at Physical Illness

### INTRO

The one primary cause for all physical illness is the \_\_\_\_\_ on all mankind (Gen. 3).

The Christian should have an \_\_\_\_\_ view toward the body, good health and our physical existence in this life, than the non-believer.

To the non-believer, their physical existence—the enjoyment of that existence and the quality of that existence—is \_\_\_\_\_ in life.

Obviously, the Christian existence goes \_\_\_\_\_ this place or these fallen, failing bodies. Therefore, a Christian should not be \_\_\_\_\_ when illness strikes.

### I. Is the Body Important?

1. The Christian's body belongs to \_\_\_\_\_.  
1 Cor 6:19; Rom 12:1
2. Our bodies are not designed to be used for \_\_\_\_\_, self-gratification; but to give physical, 3-dimensional expression of our \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ and His love for \_\_\_\_\_.  
1 Cor 6:15; Rom 6:13
3. Therefore, we should \_\_\_\_\_ God in our \_\_\_\_\_.  
1 Cor 6:20
4. We are to bring \_\_\_\_\_ to God in our bodies whether in \_\_\_\_\_ or in health; whether in life or \_\_\_\_\_.  
Phil 1:20

### II. A Biblical Perspective on Physical Illness

1. Sickness and suffering are to be \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.  
Job 5:7; Gen 3:17-19; 2 Cor 4:7-12
2. Even though one estimate concluded that \_\_\_\_\_ of all physical illness is do to \_\_\_\_\_ choices, the Christian counselor should not approach the situation like \_\_\_\_\_ who believed that ALL illness was due to a person's \_\_\_\_\_ choices.
3. The primary reason for a Christian to go to the doctor is \_\_\_\_\_; not out of a relentless pursuit to \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Every aspect of their condition is under the complete \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of a loving, \_\_\_\_\_ God.  
Isa 46:9-10; Acts 4:27-28

### III. A Biblical Approach to Counseling Those with Physical Illness

1. You do not need to be a \_\_\_\_\_ in order to help this person.
2. In order to qualify as a genuine physical illness, the condition must show verifiable evidence of damaged physical tissue.
3. Understand that you are not a \_\_\_\_\_. Counsel given should be from a purely \_\_\_\_\_ perspective; not a \_\_\_\_\_ one.
4. Do not challenge or try to interpret the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Be sure to collect adequate \_\_\_\_\_ about their condition.
  - Get as much \_\_\_\_\_ of the illness as possible.
  - How was it \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What is their \_\_\_\_\_ on the illness?
  - How has it affected their \_\_\_\_\_?
  - How has it affected their \_\_\_\_\_ with family and friends?
  - Are medications causing any \_\_\_\_\_ or complications?
6. Your objective is to get their \_\_\_\_\_ off their \_\_\_\_\_ state and on to their \_\_\_\_\_ state.
7. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ their pain, but do not place an inordinate amount of \_\_\_\_\_ on the symptoms either.
8. Help them try to discover what \_\_\_\_\_ might be doing \_\_\_\_\_ their condition.
  - Is the illness a direct result of a sinful \_\_\_\_\_?
  - Is God using this to call for \_\_\_\_\_ in their life (Ps. 38:1-11; 1 Cor. 5:5)?
  - Is God testing their \_\_\_\_\_ through their illness (1 Pe. 1:6-7)?
  - Is God using the illness to \_\_\_\_\_ them from sinning (2 Cor. 12:7)?
  - Is the illness simply a means for God to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Jn. 9:2-3; 11:4)?
9. It is important for them to see that God is more interested in what they CAN do about their situation, namely their \_\_\_\_\_ to it; NOT what they \_\_\_\_\_ do about it.

10. The direction of the homework you assign should be to give them \_\_\_\_\_ and for them to gain a biblical \_\_\_\_\_ about their situation.  
1 Cor 15:57  
Rom 8:35-37  
Phil 4:11-13
11. Help them to \_\_\_\_\_ their immediate, earthly situation.  
Rom 8:18  
Acts 20:24  
2 Cor 4:17-18

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Recommended Resources for Further Study:

The Christian Counselor's Desk Reference; Dr. Robert Smith  
Pain; Dr. James Halla  
Will Medicine Stop the Pain? Elyse Fitzpatrick/ Dr. Laura Hendrickson