

pastoral care UK

what is pastoral care?



"A new command I give you: Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-5)

Christian pastoral care is the activity which erupts from the attitude and commitment to love one another because we ourselves are first loved by God.

It is ultimately concerned with developing quality relationships, enabling one another to recognize, follow and become more like Jesus and be reconciled to God.

It embraces a wide range of activity in support of one another, in and beyond the Church i.e. in gathered and dispersed church.

It is a missional activity which we are ALL called to wherever God places us, as we love and care for one another, which SOME are particularly gifted for, as they are called to specific pastoral care roles and responsibilities and which a FEW are led to resource through specialist skills, training, knowledge and experience, as they enable the ALL and the SOME.

It might involve:

- sustaining others through prolonged difficulty or immediate need
- enabling the journey of healing and wholeness
- considering the process of reconciliation with God, self and others
- offering guidance about other resources and enabling different perspectives

It might take the form of:

- listening
- encouraging
- visiting
- hospitality
- advocacy
- mentoring
- befriending
- celebrating
- practically helping
- prayer
- comforting
- enabling

It might be offered:

- formally by a pastoral care team or network or by church leadership
- informally in everyday relationships
- by individuals
- by small groups
- through a particular ministry
- through an outreach project
- by one church or a group of churches
- in the church setting
- in other settings e.g. school, workplace

Pastoral Care UK is part of the Association of Christian Counsellors and is committed to promoting quality pastoral care through its resources, however and wherever it is offered by the All, the Some and the Few.

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