

**“Whole Counsel” Spiritual Healthcare Acts 20:26-27**  
**08-30-15 AM**

Have you ever noticed the parallels between Christianity and medicine? There are a number of times and ways in the Scriptures that this parallel is made. Consider the following comparisons:

Jesus is the Chief Physician - Mark 2:17, 1 Peter 2:24

- He is chief caregiver and restorer of the soul
- He directs all care to this effort

Scriptures are the cure - Psalm 107:20, Proverbs 4:20-22

- They are a prescription with directions
- They possess the ability to revive the lost

The church is like a hospital - 1 Timothy 3:15

- It is a location of the medicine of salvation
- It is the building built by the Chief Physician
- It is NOT the cure, but it is built around it

We are at once patients, students AND staff - Acts 3:16-19

- We have been healed
- We are learning how to heal
- We are teaching others.....all at once

So we see a strong parallel between Salvation and Medicine. Let us now take this one step further. How do we approach this “health care”? Paul said in Acts 20:26-27 “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.” The answer is WHOLE COUNSEL Healthcare.

Whole Counsel Healthcare is the approach of covering ALL aspects of Spiritual Health. Jesus accused the Pharisees and Scribes of failing this in Matthew 23:23-24. Paul admonished Timothy to practice this in 1 Timothy 5:21. Whole Counsel Spiritual Healthcare also treats the most serious problems as the primary attention (without neglecting the other aspects). We see this in an example of how Paul focused on the needs of his audience. In his letters he focused on their particular issues such as circumcision (7 of 12 letters addressed this); racism (4 of 12); sexual immorality (8 of 12).

But there is another philosophy of spiritual medicine: Half Counsel Healthcare. This is spiritual care that only tells you what you want to hear, and avoids the hard sayings or unpleasanties necessary for spiritual life. Paul warned Timothy three times about this danger (1 Timothy 4:1-6, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:1-4). Paul saw that coming soon the doctors of Christianity would no longer treat every condition; they would no longer administer the medicine per the directives of the Great Physician.

Today the same problem is rampant. Not just among the denominations (with fake medicines and treatments) but even among so called brethren. They may preach lessons on popular issues (i.e. homosexual marriage, a popular sermon that may not have much real application to the Christian), but they avoid offensive doctrines (teaching on MDR, institutionalism, liberalism, church discipline). We call this “preaching to the choir”, and it is a spiritual healthcare failure.

**Practical Application:** we need to make three important applications to these ideas. First, we, as doctors of Christ, need to personally practice “Whole Counsel Healthcare”. We are the doctor for the lost; they need HARD TRUTHS to be saved, and we must give them ALL they need. Second, we need to support “Whole Counsel Healthcare”. We need to support those brethren and congregations who are prepared to preach the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Too often we cringe at “hard preaching”, and we may undermine its effect. We must not support “half counsel” care lest we enable souls to be lost. Finally, we must shun “Half-Counsel Healthcare”. Many churches are weak or avoid teaching on tough issues. We need to reject half-truth teachings as a failure.