

## Areas Of Risk

1. Administration, interpretation and storing of personality and psychological tests.
2. Belief in simple spiritual solutions of complex emotional and psychological problems.
3. Belief that all problems are spiritual or physical, with a denial of emotional and psychological dimensions
4. Belief that pastoral and lay counselors need only biblical training to solve such severe problems as neuroses, psychoses, and suicidal intentions.
5. Belief that sincerity and good intentions are the major ingredients in pastoral and lay counseling.
6. Belief that pastors should be all things to all people.
7. Counseling psychotic and suicidal individuals
8. Counseling and mentally incompetent patient.
9. Advising against medical or psychological treatment.
10. Counseling regarding psychiatric medications
11. Denial of the existence or severity of a psychological or psychosomatic disorder.
12. Improper care of records.
13. Inadequately trained lay and pastoral counselors
14. Failure to give credence to violent intentions or statements.
15. Misdiagnosing psychotics as demon-possessed.
16. Misrepresenting one's title, position, degrees or abilities (i.e. psychologist, psychotherapist).
17. Poorly supervised lay counselors
18. Recommending divorce.
19. Sexual relations with a counseled
20. Violations of confidentiality by ministerial or secretarial staff.

(Credit to Thomas L. Needham)