



The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach

By Carrie Doehring

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Drawing on psychological, theological, and cultural studies on suffering, Carrie Doehring encourages counselors to view their ministry through trifocal lenses and include approaches that are premodern (apprehending God through religious rituals), modern (consulting rational and empirical sources), and postmodern (acknowledging the contextual nature of knowledge). Utilizing strategies from all three perspectives, Doehring describes the basic ingredients of a caregiving relationship, shows how to use the caregiver's life experience as a source of authority, and demonstrates how to develop the skill of listening and establish the actual relationship. She then explains the steps of psychological assessment, systemic assessment, and theological reflection, and finally she delineates the basic steps for plans of care: attending to the careseeker's safety, building trust, mourning losses, and reconnecting with the ordinariness of life.

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"This is a rich resource for ministries of care and counseling that I will use in teaching." -- *Nancy J. Ramsay, Executive Vice President and Dean, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care, Brite Divinity School*

About the Author

Carrie Doehring is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado. She is an ordained Presbyterian minister.

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