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SOME FACTORS INFLUENCING STYLES OF AUTHORITY IN PASTORAL COUNSELING

The present study has undertaken to explore the relationship between antecedent experience and the later styles of authority of ministers in their counseling. From a study of theoretical approaches that have been used to describe some determinants of authority, G. W. Allport's (1961) theory of expressive behavior, with his emphasis on possible determinants of styles of personality expression, was selected to serve as a theoretical basis for this research study.

A recent and thorough review of research on the consequences of different kinds of parental discipline has led W. Becker (1964) to distinguish four types of parental discipline: love-permissiveness, love-restrictiveness, hostility-restrictiveness, and hostility-permissiveness. These categories have provided the basis for a model for the analysis of styles of authority of pastors in counseling.

A sample of sixty-six subjects was drawn from Protestant pastors in southern Alberta, Canada, who were self-selected according to favorable responses to a request by the experimenter for participation in the research study, and then chosen in a random procedure with the proportional distributions maintained among the denominational affiliations. The subjects were requested to complete and return an objective self-report inventory, Pastoral Authority Inventory (PAI), designed by the experimenter. Subjects were assigned to one or the other of the categories based upon their responses to the PAI in terms of styles of pastoral authority expressed in counseling. Similarly, each pastor was evaluated based upon his responses to the PAI in terms of the following background factors: style of parental discipline to which he reports he was exposed, style of parental discipline exercised with his own children, denominational affiliation, level of educational achievement, amount of participation in clinical pastoral education, size of community in which he was reared and in which he now resides, view of the nature of man, and amount and type of reading experience. The California Psychological Inventory (CPI) was administered as a supplementary measure of authority styles and each subject was allocated to a category on the basis of subscale scores on love-hostility and permissiveness-restrictiveness. Differences between styles of authority and background factors were evaluated as was the difference between authority styles and the CPI, and a *chi square* test was used to assess the statistical significance of these differences.

The findings in the present study indicated first, that pastors with the most clinical pastoral education described themselves as the least hostile and restrictive in their expression of authority in counseling. Second, United Church of Canada pastors described themselves as less restrictive in their styles of authority in counseling than Baptist-Evangelical pastors. Third,

ministers with bible school education described themselves as more restrictive in their expression of authority in pastoral counseling than ministers with college and/or seminary education. Fourth, pastors' self-reports reflected a lesser degree of restrictiveness in styles of authority in counseling than in styles of early life parental discipline or contemporary parental discipline. Fifth, pastors reported a total absence of hostility in their styles of authority in counseling. Sixth, views of the nature of man, demographic background, and amount and type of reading were examined and were not found to be meaningful as factors influencing styles of authority in pastoral counseling in the context of the present study.

It was suggested that further research might involve a more elaborate study with a third aspect considered as well, the relationship between styles of authority in counseling and counseling effectiveness, and so trace the developmental sequence from shaping antecedent factors to styles of authority in pastoral counseling and finally to the influence of styles of authority on pastoral counseling effectiveness.

REFERENCES

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CERTAINS DES ELEMENTS QUI PEUVENT INFLUENCER L'AUTORITE DES CONSEILS DONNES PAR LE CLERGE

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Cette étude avait pour but d'examiner la relation entre l'expérience antérieure et l'autorité chez les pasteurs dans leurs séances-conseils. Les catégories de permission et de restriction et aussi d'amour et d'hostilité ont servi de base comme exemple pour l'analyse du genre d'autorité. Un nombre expérimental de soixante-six sujets avait été choisi parmi les pasteurs protestants du sud de l'Alberta, Canada, qui ont dû compléter un questionnaire objectif sur eux-mêmes, ainsi que la formule du C.P.I.

Les résultats montrent que les pasteurs avec le plus d'éducation en théorie pastorale psychologique se pensent les moins hostiles et restrictifs dans l'usage de leur droit d'autorité lors des séances-conseils. Les pasteurs de l'Eglise Unie du Canada se considèrent moins sévères dans leurs séances-conseils que les pasteurs de la "Baptist-Evangelical Church". Les pasteurs dont l'éducation pastorale est basée sur l'étude de la bible se classent eux-mêmes comme étant plus stricts que les pasteurs sortant d'universités ou de séminaires. Les questionnaires personnels des pasteurs ont montré qu'ils étaient moins stricts dans leurs séances-conseil, que leurs parents ne l'étaient avec eux ou qu'ils ne l'étaient eux-mêmes avec leurs propres enfants. Les sujets faisant l'objet de cette étude ont rapporté qu'ils manquaient totalement d'hostilité dans les démonstrations d'autorité au cours de leurs séances-conseils.