**Endorsements for *Counseling Under the Cross***

*Counseling Under the Cross* exalts our Lord Jesus Christ. Bob Kellemen’s exploration of Luther’s ministry has enlarged my appreciation for Luther and given me a new perspective on him as a pastoral counselor. The title of the book, *Counseling Under the Cross*, speaks volumes and reminds us of Paul’s words in Galatians 6:14 where the great apostle gloried in the cross above all else. I am personally grateful for Bob and for the clear and practical teaching he has provided in this book about the centrality of the cross in counseling and by extension the entire Christian life and ministry.

**—Dr. Wayne Mack, ACBC Member of the Academy, Director at Strengthening Ministries Training Institute, Counselling Pastor at Lynnwood Baptist Church**

I LOVE this book! I’m with Bob. Martin Luther has instructed and encouraged and **reformed** my life and ministry, too. Beyond the incredibly helpful unpacking of the key elements of Luther’s theology and methodology, *Counseling Under the Cross* reminds us that the issues that we wrestle with in our current soul care ministries are not new. What must be renewed in each generation is the courage to challenge the status quo—even within the church—with practical, biblical answers. This book will help you with that *reforming* process.

**—Wayne A. Vanderwier, D.Min., Executive Director, Overseas Instruction in Counseling**

We know Martin Luther as the father of the Reformation, not as a counselor. But as you read Luther in *Counseling Under the Cross*, what you find is a theologian who cared deeply for God’s people. Luther’s cross-centered *theology* translated to gospel-centered *counseling*. Bob Kellemen’s *Counseling Under the Cross* is a rich collection of Luther’s stories, quotes, and lively vignettes that trace out how Luther’s care of souls puts Christ squarely at the center of everything!

**—Deepak Reju, Ph.D., Pastor of Biblical Counseling and Family Ministry, Capitol Hill Baptist Church (Washington, DC), Author of *The Pastor and Counseling***

There is a generational pride which tempts us to believe our understanding is superior to that of our ancestors. In *Counseling Under the Cross,* Bob Kellemen not only reveals that it was Martin Luther’s pure pastoral concern for souls which provoked the German reformation. Even more humbling is the realization of how deep, comprehensive, and practical Luther’s understanding and application of the gospel was in his caring for souls. A must-read for any “modern” biblical counselor.

**—Michael Leister, Pastor-Elder at NordRhön Bible Church in Hünfeld, Germany; Professor of Biblical Counseling at the European Bible Training Center in Berlin**

Think you know Martin Luther? Think again! Bob Kellemen has done a masterful job at highlighting the Augustinian monk’s heart and pastoral care. Meticulously researched and thoughtfully presented, in *Counseling Under the Cross*,Kellemen brings his trademark organizational skill, creative writing, and warmth along with a compelling insight into an oft-overlooked aspect of Luther’s ministry. Join Kellemen on this journey to the past and be encouraged that gospel-centered counseling is not so new after all.

**—Jonathan Holmes, Pastor of Counseling, Parkside Church; Council Member, Biblical Counseling Coalition**

As someone who enjoys theology, I found *Counseling Under the Cross*incredibly insightful, especially for understanding that care of souls motivated Luther’s reforming ministry. As someone who enjoys history, Dr. Kellemen brought Luther’s personality to life. As someone who is deeply involved in pastoral soul care, I found Luther’s insights for counseling thought-provoking, comforting, and profound. During this 500th anniversary of the Reformation, *Counseling Under the Cross* reinforces that we are on the right path in the Biblical Counseling Movement and that we have a profound heritage. Thanks Bob, for blessing the Church with this important work.

**—Ernie Baker, Executive Pastor of Counseling and Discipleship, First Baptist of Jacksonville; Author of *Marry Wisely, Marry Well***

Bob Kellemen’s decades of experience as a counselor, teacher, leader, and author make *Counsel Under the Cross* a rare gift for pastors and counselors. This book provides an inspiring account of Luther’s journey from fear to faith, a comprehensive explanation of the classic forms of pastoral counseling, a practical theology for helping sufferers and sinners, and a Christ-centered focus throughout—all leading to “*faith working through love.*” Read *Counseling Under the Cross* and be encouraged, instructed, and equipped.

**—Pat Quinn, Director of Counseling Ministries, University Reformed Church**

And I thought I knew something about Luther! *Counseling Under the Cross* is such a well-researched and beautifully-written book. I’m so very thankful for Bob Kellemen and this wonderful book. Because Martin Luther desperately needed gospel-counseling himself, he developed a perspective of soul care that reaches deeply into the heart of broken sinners who long for (and yet fear) intimacy with God. And although he wrote 500 years ago, we still need his perspective; a perspective that proclaims God’s self-giving love for anxious sinners demonstrated by the perfect life and substitutionary death of the Son He loved. Perhaps if the church had paid more attention to Luther’s paradigm for soul-care, she wouldn’t have given herself over to the futile philosophies of the world as she has. Bob Kellemen has given a us gift that has been sorely needed by the church: a revival of Luther’s deep, gentle, and loving counsel. What a gift!

**—Elyse M Fitzpatrick, Author of *Counsel from the Cross***

In *Counseling Under the Cross*,Bob Kellemen has written an insightful work concerning the implications of Luther’s theological observation that will greatly help the Christian pastor and biblical counselor address serious issues of the heart. Living under the cross changes people for the better. If you want to learn the theological impact of this truth, you must read this book! The transformation that occurred in the heart of Martin Luther happened because he was a fervent student of the Word. It was his observations concerning Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11 that were completely life-transforming because he learned salvation was wholly a work of God. It was solely secured by the work of Christ on the cross.

**—Dr. John D. Street, Chair, Biblical Counseling Graduate Programs, The Master’s University & Seminary, President, Association of Certified Biblical Counselors**

When he nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg 500 years ago, Martin Luther didn’t just spark a church reformation, he started a personal revival for soul care. Bob Kellemen’s compelling book, *Counseling Under the Cross*, keeps the reformation alive. When it comes to the cure of souls, Dr. Kellemen writes like few others. Now we know why. He has been deeply influenced by the suffering, and victory, of Martin Luther, a man once under a hopeless works theology. Luther’s deliverance is ours too. Grace-saturated and gospel-focused, *Counseling Under the Cross* will change the way you counsel yourself and others. I highly recommend it.

**—Garrett Higbee, Psy. D., President of Soul Care Consulting**

We all know Martin Luther the Reformer who recovered the bedrock scriptural principles summarized in the great solas. The Bible alone is our authority which teaches that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone to the glory of God alone. Five hundred years later as the church stands in need of a recovery of biblical soul care, Bob Kellemen introduces us to Luther the biblical counselor. In *Counseling Under the Cross*, Bob shows how Luther faithfully ministered God’s Word to those in his day who were simultaneously sinners and sufferers. Bob also shows how Luther addresses the challenges faced by biblical counselors today, including the proper balance of the gospel indicatives and the corresponding imperatives. One of the greatest benefits of this book is that it offers the reader the cream of Kellemen’s years of extensive research into a very concise and readable format. I highly recommend it.

**—Jim Newheiser, Director of the Christian Counseling Program, Associate Professor of Counseling and Practical Theology, Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte**

Martin Luther’s *Bondage of the Will* was a pivotal book in shaping my conceptualization of biblical counseling. And now, Dr. Bob Kellemen’s *Counseling Under the Cross* takes Luther’s theology and its application to the complex intricacies of soul care to an entirely new and refreshing level. Bob’s expertise on Luther’s life and work is impeccable. Applying the contents of this book in my own counseling practice will richly enhance the ministry I provide to others!

**—Jeremy Lelek, Ph.D., President, Association of Biblical Counselors**

When I first heard Dr. Kellemen talking about Luther as a soul physician, I was somehow surprised. After all, Luther is the bold Reformer, not a caring shepherd of suffering people. However, *Counsel Under the Cross* proved me wrong. Bob masterfully describes the transformation of a fearful monk into a faithful, bold, and loving pastor. And he does so not in a merely historical fashion, but by applying eternal truths for today. Praise God for the work of the Cross then, now, and forever—and its impact on how we counsel from the Word today.

**—Alexandre “Sacha” Mendes, Associate Pastor (Brazil); Director for Vision and Expansion of the Brazilian Association of Biblical Counselors (ABCB); Member of Board of Directors, Biblical Counseling Coalition.**

With the flood of Reformation 500 books coming out, Bob Kellemen offers a unique contribution and perspective with *Counseling Under the Cross*. Like pulling up to Luther’s famous dinner table in Wittenberg for a table talk, Kellemen guides us through the pastoral care of one of the heroes of the faith. Luther’s counsel on suffering is particularly needed in our contemporary church. I’m happy to commend Dr. Kellemen’s book to any Christian wanting to know Luther and the God Luther served.

**—Steve DeWitt, Sr. Pastor, Bethel Church, Author of *Eyes Wide Open***

Would it surprise you to know that Luther, the Reformer, was also very much Luther, the tender shepherd? Passion for soul care grows best in the soul that needs care. In *Counseling Under the Cross,* Bob Kellemen shows how Martin Luther’s biblical theology, fashioned on the anvil of his own desperate need, inevitably shaped him to be a lover of souls who longed to see gospel truth bring freedom to fellow sufferers. We do well to sit with him at Jesus’ feet and learn, along with Bob Kellemen, what God meant when He called us to love one another. *Counseling Under the Cross* is accessible, insightful, instructive, encouraging, and it has been a means for me to worship God as Bob has masterfully portrayed Christ’s faithfulness to build His church one needy soul at a time.

**—Betty-Anne Van Rees, MABC, Council Board Member of the BCC and Founding Member of the Canadian BCC**

Most know of Luther’s preaching, but Bob Kellemen powerfully and practically shows the commitment Luther had for using God’s Word in biblical counseling. Bob creatively shows how that commitment was rooted in the same great gospel that initially rocked Luther’s world at salvation. Luther, more than any other from the Reformation, has been the one I return to again and again. I love his passion, his raucous laughter, and the way he not only preached great sermons but poured his life into others at close range. *Counseling Under the Cross* demonstrates that in living color.

**—Brad Bigney, ACBC Certified Counselor, Lead Pastor, Grace Fellowship Church,Author of *Gospel Treason***

*Counseling Under the Cross* by Bob Kellemen is Martin Luther expertly assembled so we witness how the cross of Christ yields honesty, transparency, compassion, comfort, wisdom—full-on humanity. In wonderfully assessable form, it is as if Luther were speaking to us at his table or writing to us the most personal of letters. And we, in turn, can’t wait to speak of such matters to those we love!

**—Ed Welch, Ph.D., Faculty Member, CCEF, Author of *Side by Side***

The God of Scripture is faithful, good, and wise. He counsels. He knows and changes people. In His Son we have redemption. In His Spirit we have life. In His Word we find riches beyond measure, precious gems of wise counsel for the vast array of counseling moments. Martin Luther believed it. His pastoral ministry proved it. Perhaps we have forgotten how much he mined from Scripture to enrich the lives of others. Bob Kellemen, in *Counseling Under the Cross*, helps us remember. Perhaps we never knew the depth of Luther’s counseling ministry. Bob Kellemen acquaints us. If you want to hear Luther engaging in personal ministry of the Word, then I commend this marvelous resource to you.

**—John Henderson, Associate Pastor, Del Ray Baptist Church**

While movements may bear a leader’s name, we must never forget the source of a leader’s fame—grace alone. Dr. Bob Kellemen, in *Counseling Under the Cross*, practically, powerfully, and beautifully illustrates how God ministers His grace to and through sinful and broken vessels—like Martin Luther and us! It is refreshing and encouraging to see our weaknesses, and the all-sufficient grace of God mirrored through Martin Luther’s discovery and application of God’s grace to himself and other. Dr. Kellemen’s excellent work and writing in *Counseling Under the Cross* motivates us to thank God that our counseling does not lead to ourselves or any other human being but rather to the victory won at the cross!

**—Dr. A. Charles Ware, President of Crossroads Bible College,** **Council Member, Biblical Counseling Coalition**