

Leader’s Guide

Episode 15

Not For Dentists Only

Summary

Those fortunate enough to be practice owners have a tremendous opportunity to direct every aspect of their practice according to the timeless wisdom of the Scriptures. Although fewer and fewer doctors own their own practices than in prior times, the many spiritual advantages are worth serious consideration in our prayerful determination of the best practice setting for us.

Speaker

Dr. Kevin Aduddell is a private practice general dentist in Plano, Texas. A member of CMDA since dental school, he has treated patients from countries around the world at Watermark Urgent Care in Dallas, Texas. He and his wife Chloé stay busy with their three children and serve together in their church’s marriage ministry. For further information or to contact Dr. Aduddell, email him at kevin@aduddelldentistry.com.

Discussion Questions

* + - 1. **What from this video inspired, edified or challenged you?**
			2. **What fears or apprehensions do you have about leading a Christ-centered office?**

Fears could include the following:

* It could drive patients away.
* It could drive employees away.
* It could stir up controversy.
* This would create a higher standard for the office to attain.
* This could decrease the profitability of the office.
	+ - 1. **Dr. Aduddell mentions Galatians 2:20 in his initial comments. How might the concepts of being crucified with Christ and letting Christ live His life through you change your practice? Be specific.**

Being crucified with Christ basically means to put Christ’s agenda ahead of ours. Others’ needs would come first, rather than our schedules, our profitability or our reputations.

* + - 1. **Dr. Aduddell mentions that idols in our lives can keep us from making our practices Christ-centered (profitability, false sense of professionalism, complacency to the call of Christ, etc.). Which of these or other idols most strongly tempt you?**
			2. **Consider 1 Peter 3:15.**
1. **How does this verse speak to the topic of idols?**
2. **As we are enabled by faith to say no to idols and yes to Christ, what could happen according to this verse?**

An idol is anything that takes the place of God in our lives. To eliminate them, we need to recognize them, confess them to the Lord, repent and seek His strength to overcome them. Our calling is to bow the knee to God alone, and as we do so, others are likely to notice that we will not be pushed around as easily by the waves of immorality in our culture (James 1:6).

* + - 1. **Dr. Aduddell says, “‘Doctors don’t pray’ is just pride wearing a white coat.” What are your thoughts?**

It would seem that the biggest hesitations to pray with or for patients in their presence are indeed rooted in pride. As healthcare professionals, we work hard to control all possible circumstances, and perhaps we are afraid patients will view our desire to pray as reflecting a lack of confidence in our own abilities. Or maybe we don’t think we have time, though Jesus says prayers don’t have to be long (Matthew 6:7-8). We can also be intimidated by the possibility that our patients may not be enamored with the One to whom we pray. In all three of these cases, it would seem pride can indeed play a role in our reluctance to pray with our patients.

* + - 1. **Why can it be spiritually dangerous if we treat patients with excellence and compassion but refuse to acknowledge the Lord along the way?**

If patients receive tremendous care from us, but we never give credit to the Lord, then they could conclude that we are not Christians, and our efforts will not be effective in pointing patients to our Savior. We don’t have to spiritually steamroll them, but neither should we act out of embarrassment regarding the One who died and rose on our behalf (Matthew 10:32-33). In addition, references to faith early in the patient relationship can lay the groundwork for progressive spiritual interventions over time.

* + - 1. **Dr. Aduddell discusses several ideas to help make a practice Christ-centered: praying over your schedule, using faith flags, dealing with conflicts biblically and stepping into a patient’s pain. Which of these strategies do you employ currently or would like to employ in your practice?**

This question could be a good summary question, revealing how much from this and prior episodes is being applied to the clinical setting.

* + - 1. **Drs. Huong, Allen and Griffin give examples of how owning one’s practice can open the door to some profound spiritual opportunities. If you own your practice, what are some ways you could utilize this benefit to bless both your employees and your patients?**

Following are some examples of how practice ownership can inspire spiritual care for one’s team and patients:

* Opening the day with prayer.
* Playing music that is wholesome and perhaps even Christian.
* Empowering employees to address the spiritual needs of patients as opportunities arise.
* Creating office protocols that are consistent with the teaching of the Bible and being quick to illustrate the strong relevance of the Scriptures to the practice setting.

**10. Who do you have in your life that could regularly encourage you to persevere in your desire to have a Christ-centered practice? Why is this important?**

Regular interaction with others in healthcare seeking to walk with Jesus is God’s instrument to keep us strong and faithful, despite all of the internal and external barriers we face. God uses the blessing of fellowship to encourage and strengthen us to accomplish His purposes.

**11. Take some time and imagine looking back on your practice at the end of your career. What “fruits” will you want to see?**

It is beautiful to play a role in seeing someone come to faith in Christ, whatever that role might be—planting, cultivating or harvesting. It is also a great privilege to care for those who could not afford to pay for the treatment they need. A third blessing is the strong relationship and mutual respect that can develop with fellow team members over decades of partnership in the gospel through healthcare.

1. **What is one take-home item from today’s session that you hope to implement?**