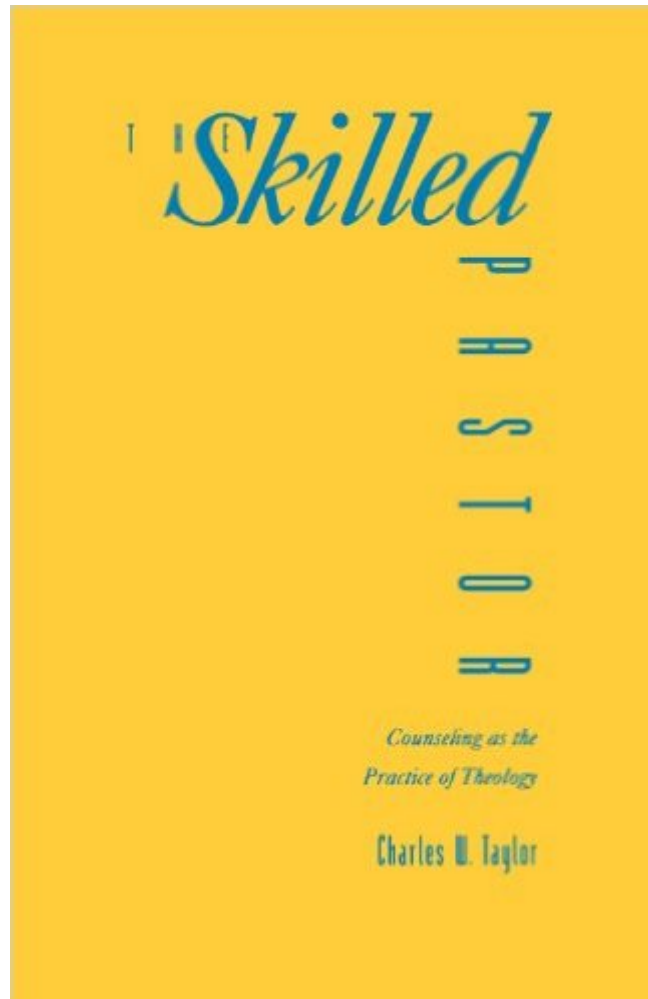


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# The Skilled Pastor: Counseling As The Practice Of Theology



## Synopsis

A splendid volume detailing the specific skills necessary for sound pastoral guidance in various situations. The author integrates theological reflection with practice, while incorporating religious resources with counseling technique.

## Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #170,004 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Counseling](#) #141 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Administration](#) #248 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Counseling & Recovery](#)

## Customer Reviews

One of Taylor's back cover commentators, Rodney J. Hunter of Chandler School of Theology wrote, "Charles Taylor has written a pioneering book, one that is bound to be controversial but undeniably creative and important." The book is not a pioneering work, nor is it all that creative and important. It's par for the course and similar to many other texts on pastoral care and counseling. It could have been controversial, in my opinion, had any of its reviewers paid attention to some of its details. I don't recommend it to my students or other chaplains with whom I come in contact. I've had Taylor's book in my CPE library since it came out and did CPE with one of the many persons footnoted in his preface. Since that time, I have used only small portions of it with just about every CPE group that I have supervised, with supervisory students I have worked with, and shared my observations with other CPE supervisors. One of those aforementioned details came out in a small portion of the book, about four pages from the beginning of Chapter 3 "Assessing". Taylor uses a two page verbatim encounter between a young widower, Patrick Wood, and Pastor Sandra Sherwood. His goal is to provide a crisp, clear example of good pastoral/counseling skills. Taylor's primary focus is on surface listening, paraphrasing, clarifying, summarizing, etc. However, he missed the

sub-surface, other-than-conscious dialogue, which would be obvious to just about any entry level therapist; i.e., it's not about what it is about! If Taylor was aware of the double meanings, he should have footnoted his clever intentions, even in the choice of names for his characters.

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