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# A Church That Cares

## A Biblical Guide to Loving One Another Well

You believe in the love of Christ, but does love for one another shape your church's current culture—or the culture your church hopes to build?

Coming alongside you as a fellow church member and a biblical counselor, Helen Thorne-Allenson offers practical, realistic insight into contributing to a church culture of care.

You'll consider...

- Stories of care and of care needs that you recognize or relate to
- Why care matters, what it looks like and why it's difficult
- How to encourage others to get involved and share the load
- 11 building blocks for you and your church

Reflection questions at the end of each chapter will help you practice the principles shared.

However far along your church is in cultivating a caring community, you'll find clarifying questions, fresh ideas and biblical wisdom in *A Church That Cares*.

## About the Author



Helen Thorne-Allenson is Director of Training and Resources at Biblical Counselling UK. She formerly worked with the London City Mission and has written *Hope in an Anxious World*, *Purity Is Possible*, *Walking with Domestic Abuse Sufferers* and *5 Things to Pray for Your City*. She is married to Nick, lives in Hampshire, UK and very much enjoys Korean food.

## Endorsements

“Helen draws on a wealth of experience in helping both individuals and churches grow in their ability to care well for one another. Each chapter is accessible yet packed full of biblical encouragement, practical application, inspiring stories and challenging questions. Aimed at equipping both leaders and congregation members, this book is an invaluable resource, whether read individually or within a small group, ministry team or whole church.”

### Dr Joanna Jackson

Director of Counselling, All Souls  
Counselling Service

“Developing Christ-like care in our churches serves so many ambitions. It blesses those inside the church who receive that care, and it commends Christ to those outside the church who see the quality of the care being given. Helen Thorne-Al- lenson’s book is a faithful, biblical and comprehensive guide to the principles and practicalities of being a caring church. Broad in scope yet detailed in application, this book will help all our churches grow the kind of caring culture that is both glorifying and obedient to Christ.”

### Steve Midgley

Executive Director, Biblical  
Counselling UK; Author,  
*Understanding Trauma*

# Suggested Interview Questions

1. Your introduction uses a gardening analogy. What kind of intentional nurturing must take place for a culture of love and care to flourish in a congregation?
2. Drawing from Ephesians, what are the core attitudes and practices that characterize a healthy, caring church culture?
3. Why is utter dependence on God through prayer the essential starting place for developing a culture of love and care?
4. How is active listening a reflection of God’s character, and what are the consequences when Christians fail to listen well?
5. When listening, you advise looking for what is good, hard, and ugly in a person’s story. Why must these categories be held together, rather than focusing solely on sin?
6. How can church teaching and preaching be used to powerfully set expectations and inspire participation in Christ-centered care?
7. You assert that all spiritual gifts are valuable. How can leaders ensure every gift is valued and utilized, even those that seem less prominent?
8. How can preachers and teachers shift their approach to encourage deep, personal engagement with God’s word, rather than just intellectual understanding?
9. Beyond successful ministry, why is role-modeling honesty about one’s failures and repentance a pivotal skill for church health?
10. In structuring pastoral care, what is the importance of having accountability and clearly defined processes, especially regarding confidentiality?
11. For readers who are excited about this vision, what is your primary caution when beginning the work of cultural change?

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