

BOOK REVIEWS



Terri S. Watson, *Developing Clinicians of Character: A Christian Integrative Approach to Clinical Supervision* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018), 231 pp.

This is a bold and detailed attempt to describe how supervision can help train clinicians in the classical virtues so they will be more fit for their work. The virtues in question are the theological virtues—faith, hope, and love—together with the cardinal virtues—wisdom, justice, temperance, and courage. This character formation, it is posited, should be integrated with professional ethics and values. Specific supervisory models are presented as well as spiritual discipline practices, which certainly could be very useful when practiced in Christian supervision.

Therefore, the program consists of seven dimensions: (1) prioritizing the establishment of a secure, trusting supervision alliance should be established, marked by faithfulness, consistency, and fidelity; (2) fostering in the supervisees a hopeful vision for clinical work; (3) expressing love in a safe, bounded relationship with an attitude of acceptance, giving the message that it is good that the participant exists; (4) searching ourselves for wisdom, thereby committing ourselves to lifelong learning, and encouraging our supervisees to do the same; (5) letting biblical justice be like a flame that is able to energize the supervisees; (6) modeling and encourage reflective practice; and (7) instilling courage through fostering resilience and well-being.

I find this an interesting contribution to the theory of supervision, not least because it underlines the importance of spiritual Christian growth. Saint Teresa of Ávila (p. 101) is quoted when discussing the virtue of love, but, realizing the difficulty of love, her Carmelite brother Saint John of the

Cross would also have something to say: "All I do is done in love; all I suffer, I suffer in the sweetness of love." We are reminded that supervision is also about suffering and actualizing the dark night, in supervisors as well as in supervisees.

I especially appreciate that the Holy Trinity is considered in the author's treatment of the virtue of love. I think that all Christian supervision in every dimension should be related to the Trinitarian reality. The intra-Trinitarian relations are truly iconic for supervisory activities.

Karl-Erik Tysk
Pastoral Psychotherapist and Supervisor
Kungsgarden, Sweden