

BIBLICAL COUNSELING FAITH CHURCH MINISTRIES

Counseling Agreement

There are several conditions upon which counseling cases will be initiated:

1. Counseling at Faith Church always takes precedence over all other outside counseling. If the counselee is involved with more than one counselor and conflicting views become confusing, the counselee must discontinue all other counseling relationships until counseling at FAITH is concluded. This is for the counselee's benefit.
2. Counseling will be done by one of our staff counselors.
3. The counseling you receive will be *biblical* counseling in which the Scriptures are the final authority in *all* cases. All counseling will be conducted in accordance with the counselor's understanding of the Scriptures.
4. If you are not sure whether or not you will be interested in Bible-based counseling, you have the option of attending one or two sessions to discover what biblical counseling is and then determine if you want to continue.
5. It should be understood that biblical counseling consists of the giving of scriptural advice and the practical application of the same to each individual. The counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that advice.
6. If at any time you are unwilling to implement the counseling principles into your life or unwilling to do the homework assigned, sessions will be discontinued.
7. You are expected to attend a Christ-centered, Bible teaching church regularly for at least the duration of counseling sessions. If you are not currently attending a church, we will be glad to make a church recommendation to you.
8. If you are already a member of a church, please inform your pastor or an elder that you are receiving biblical counseling at FAITH CHURCH. We recognize and respect the authority of your church insofar as it strives to follow biblical principles in discipling and counseling its members. Therefore, we hope to involve your church and pastoral staff in the implementation of your spiritual care.
9. Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. However, absolute confidentiality is not Scriptural. In certain circumstances the Bible requires that facts be disclosed to selected others (e.g., pastoral staff members) involved in your spiritual oversight (Matt. 18:17; Heb. 13:17). If your church leadership should inquire, we will disclose to them only that information we believe is necessary for them to possess in order to fulfill their duty to provide adequate care for you (Acts 20:28; Eph. 4:11-13). *Please be assured that counselors prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and we will make every effort to help you resolve problems as privately as possible.*
10. At any time during counseling the counselor or the counselee shall have the option of terminating counseling.

11. There is no cost for counseling, but each counselee is expected to pay for any materials such as books and CDs. However contributions to Faith Church Counseling Ministry are greatly appreciated!
12. If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system by means of biblical conciliation under submission to, and the direction of, the Deacon's or Elders committee of the counselor's church and in cooperation with the pastoral leadership of the counselee's church (1 Cor. 6:1-8).
13. We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). There are no problems between persons that the Bible fails to address either in general principles or specific directives. While the counselor does not profess to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its application to life, nevertheless, they have studied the Bible and how to apply Scripture to every day life. We will do our utmost to help you do the same. We will also make a point of differentiating between God's commands and our suggestions. The counselor will also honestly tell you if they are stymied and will seek qualified assistance from others if it becomes necessary.
14. *We do not give medical or legal advice.*

AUDIO RECORDING CONSENT

1. I give permission to the Faith Counseling and my counselor to make audio cassette records of any counseling session, in part or in total.
2. I am assured that any audio cassette records of my counseling sessions are confidential and secured.
3. My counselor will inform me when a counseling session is being recorded.

Initial _____ Date _____

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING OBSERVATION CONSENT

1. I give permission to the Faith Counseling and my counselor to allow counselors-in-training to observe during my counseling session.
2. The counselors-in-training will not participate in my counseling session, but quietly observe. I understand the purpose of their observation is to develop their counseling skills.
3. I understand that my counselor will dialogue with the counselors-in-training about my counseling session to develop their counseling skills, and the counselors-in-training will maintain the strictest and highest level of confidentiality

Initial _____ Date _____

We welcome the opportunity to help you in whatever way we can. If you are interested in receiving biblical counseling at FAITH COUNSELING and are in full agreement with the conditions stated above, please sign below as indicated.

I/we have read and understood the conditions for counseling set forth in this document and agree to enter into counseling in accordance with them:

Signed _____ Date _____

Parent signature for minor child 18yrs & under _____

Date _____