

## **Biblical Counseling Ministry “Welcome!”**

We welcome you to the *Biblical Counseling Ministry* of \_\_\_\_\_ Church. We desire to be used by God to “speak His truth in love.” We know that the path to maturity is often steep and rough and at times filled with pain and confusion. However, there are answers. We believe that the Bible is *God’s all-sufficient guide for relational living*. There is a route to life. Our Lord is that *way*. Christ is the *truth* who frees us to love. He is the *life* who satisfies the deepest thirsts of our soul.

### **Ministries Offered**

As a *ministry* of \_\_\_\_\_ Church, our services are *free*. As a discipleship ministry of a *local church*, we offer to you:

- Individual biblical counseling regarding spiritual and personal issues.
- Pre-marital biblical counseling.
- Marital biblical counseling.
- Family/parental biblical counseling: with children under the age of thirteen we work primarily with the parents and/or with the parents and children.
- Adolescent biblical counseling: with parental consent and involvement.
- Small group discipleship: see our brochure on our various groups.
- A referral network.

### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the biblical counseling relationship, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. All communications between you and our LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry offices will be held in strict confidence, unless you (or a parent in the case of a minor) give authorization to release this information. The exceptions to this would be: 1.) if a person expresses intent to harm himself/herself or someone else; 2.) if there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elder person, or dependent adult; 3.) if a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information; 4.) if/when LEAD Biblical Counselors consult with their supervision; or 5.) if a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin (habitual unrepentant rebellion against the Word of God) and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance, restoration, and reconciliation (see Matthew 18:15-20 and our *Church Discipline Policy*). Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and that they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

### **Appointments**

Our biblical counselors work by scheduled appointments. Of course, in emergencies, exceptions are made. We need your prompt and consistent participation in your scheduled meetings. Please contact our office 24 hours in advance if you must cancel an appointment. This will allow us to schedule another individual during this time.

If you will arrive forty-five minutes early for your first appointment, you will then be able to complete all necessary forms. During your initial meeting, you will determine the goals you would like to work toward. After five sessions, you and your biblical counselor will evaluate your progress toward those goals and together determine what further action needs to be taken.

## Our Commitments to You in Biblical Counseling

You have read our term “biblical counseling.” We would like to explain what we mean by it. Biblical counselors are spiritual friends who commit to the historic roles of *soul care* and *spiritual direction* through:

- *Sustaining*: Empathizing with your suffering, helping you to understand that “*It’s normal to hurt.*”
- *Healing*: Encouraging you to see life from a biblical perspective, helping you to know that “*It’s possible to hope.*”
- *Reconciling*: Examining and exposing your current responses to life and suggesting new ways of handling problems, helping you to see that “*It’s horrible to sin, but wonderful to be forgiven.*”
- *Guiding*: Exploring how and empowering you to mature through Christ, helping you to grasp that “*It’s supernatural to mature.*”

Because we care about *you*, our desire is for you to be drawn closer to Christ and to become more like Christ, which we see as *your inner life increasingly reflecting the inner life of Christ*:

- *Relational Maturity*: Loving God wholeheartedly and loving others sacrificially.
- *Rational Maturity*: Wisely living according to the truth of Christ’s Gospel of grace.
- *Volitional Maturity*: Courageously choosing to pursue God’s purposes in your life through the Spirit’s power.
- *Emotional Maturity*: Deeply and honestly experiencing life with integrity, fully open to God while managing your moods for God’s glory and with a ministry focus.

## Your Commitments to Christ, to Yourself, and to Us in Biblical Counseling

We ask that you commit to:

- Honestly and openly sharing your hurts and struggles.
- Evaluating your own emotions, actions, motivations, beliefs, and relationships.
- Actively participating in the growth of renewed emotions, actions, convictions, and affections.
- Coming to each meeting prepared to review your progress throughout the last week (including the completion of personalized “homework” assignments) and prepared to share your goals for the present meeting.

Because the Scriptures teach that growth in Christ requires all the resources of the Body of Christ (not only biblical counseling, but also discipleship, worship, fellowship, stewardship, and ambassadorship), we believe that it is essential that those seeking biblical counseling at our church commit themselves to the following:

- Regular church attendance (at your church or our church).
- Active participation in Adult Bible Fellowship/Sunday School.
- Participation in at least one small groups (we’ll discuss the appropriate group for you).

We ask that you sign below to indicate your understanding of, agreement with, and commitment to our *Biblical Counseling Ministry* focus as described on these two pages.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent if Minor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date