

CONSENT TO COUNSELING

Our Goal - Our goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

Biblical Basis for & Nature of Counsel - We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life (II Peter 1:3 and Romans 15:4). Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. The counselor with whom you meet is not trained or licensed as a psychotherapist or mental health professional, nor should he/she be expected to follow the methods of such specialists. The counsel is specifically biblical and spiritual in nature. If you have a significant legal, financial, medical or other technical question, you should seek advice from an independent professional who specializes in that field. We will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you consider their counsel in light of the relevant scriptural principles.

Confidentiality - Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are four situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: (1) When the counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or elder in this church or counselor from another organization; (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; (3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless we otherwise intervene; or (4) when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20). Please be assured we strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

Resolution of Conflicts - On rare occasions a conflict may arise between counselor and counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with the counselor or with this church as a result of counseling will be settled with mediation within the church according to the principles of scripture and the authority of this local church.

Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Printed Name: _____

Signed Name : _____ Date: _____