



## CFC BIBLICAL COUNSELING MINISTRIES CONSENT TO COUNSEL

**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. (2 Peter 1:3)

**Biblical Basis:** We believe that the Bible provides sufficient guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of psychology or psychiatry. Neither the pastoral, nor the lay counselors of this ministry are licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals.

**Professional Advice:** In the process of biblical counseling there are often times when there is a need for significant advice with regards to legal, medical, financial or other technical areas. In those cases you will be encouraged to seek independent professional counsel. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles. Some of our lay counselors may be lawyers, doctors or other professionals, but the counselee understands and agrees that such counselors are not providing advice in those areas during the counseling process.

**Fees and Resources:** We want to bless our community by providing these counseling services. Since the counselors volunteer their time, we can offer the counseling free of charge. In order to provide good, helpful resources, we ask, if you are able, to pay for the reading materials you will need. Out of respect for our staff we require a \$25 deposit which will be refunded to you should you keep all your appointments or cancel at least 48 hours in advance of your appointment. When you arrive for your first counseling session you will be required to submit this deposit in cash. If you should ever cancel upon less than 48 hours notice, you would forfeit your cancellation fee. You would need to submit another \$25.00 before continuing your counseling sessions.

**What to Bring:** Please bring with you (one for each person being counseled) a Bible (a literal translation such as NASB, ESV, NIV etc. rather than a paraphrase such as The Living Bible), looseleaf notebook, paper and pen.

**Training Center:** CFC Biblical Counseling Ministries is also a training center for future counselors. Accordingly, to facilitate both counseling and training, the counselor may have one to two people assisting or observing him/her in each counseling session.

**Confidentiality:** Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are five situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: 1) When a counselor is uncertain how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor, elder or counselor; 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 others intervene; 4) When required by law; or 5) When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin, and it becomes necessary to seek assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Matthew 18:15-20; Proverbs 15:22; 24:11). Be assured that our counselors 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 develop between a counselor and a 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 a counselor or with the church as a result of counseling, will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the *Institute for Christian Conciliation*, a division of Peacemaker® Ministries (complete text of the Rules is available at [www.Peacemaker.net](http://www.Peacemaker.net)). Judgment upon arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this agreement and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

*If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with Phil Hartman, Pastor of Shepherding, CFC. (904.262.3000). If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_