

Biblical Counseling Consent Form

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Are you having problems? Don't know what to do or where to turn? Biblical counseling can help.

Our biblical counselors are NOT licensed by the **State of California**, however all biblical counselors for TBBF are either certified or pursuing certification by the **Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC)** - www.biblicalcounseling.com.

There are several conditions upon which counseling will be initiated. They are as follows:

- 1. Counseling members of The Bridge Bible Fellowship (TBBF)** always takes precedence over non-members.
- 2. All counseling will be conducted with Scripture as the final authority in all cases.** If you are not sure about biblically-based counseling, you have the option to attend one or two sessions to discover what biblical counseling is like. **If you are unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority in counseling or unwilling to do the homework assigned, sessions will be terminated.**
- 3. If you are not a member of TBBF** please encourage your pastor or one in leadership from your local church to accompany you to each counseling session. We recognize and respect the authority and discipline of your local church. And, in addition, this makes transfer back to the pastoral care of your church much easier to effect. If you are not attending a church, we will expect you to attend a Bible preaching and believing church weekly. If you so desire, we will be glad to make a recommendation.
- 4. Information disclosed in counseling sessions will be held**

confidential only as we believe the Bible or the State requires.

- A) Absolute confidentiality is not scriptural. In certain circumstances, the Bible requires that facts must be disclosed to others (*local authorities, church leadership, family, employers, etc*). In fact, if a counselee defiantly pursues sinful attitudes and/or actions, we may need to initiate steps in *Matthew 18:15-17* by involving others including an elder/staff member of the church where the counselee attends.
- B) In order to better serve you and provide oversight and accountability for our counsel, We may need to consult with (or report to) the Executive Team of the Elder Board. This will provide you with the wisdom and experience of wise counsel and provide you additional protection.
- C) If your church leadership should inquire, we will disclose only that information which we believe is necessary for them to effectively and biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you.

NOTE: We are a required reporter to the state of California for any suspected or confessed acts of **child abuse** (*perpetrator* or *victim*).

- 5. At any time during the counseling,** both the counselor and the counselee shall have the **option of terminating** counseling.
- 6. All counseling is done free of charge as a ministry.** Part of the weekly homework assignments may require purchasing materials that correspond to the counseling. **There is a 24 hour cancellation policy. Cancelling within 24 hours of your appointment will result in a \$75 cancellation fee.**
- 7. If you are sick, please ask to reschedule** (i.e. cold, cough, etc.)

- 8. It should be understood that biblical counseling consists of giving scriptural advice and the application of the same to the counselee. Yet, the counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that advice.**

We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (*2 Peter 1:3*). There are no problems between persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or with specific principles. In contrast, we are not infallible, nor do we pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life, but we are well equipped and competent to help you to apply God's Word to your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. We will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and our suggested applications. We will honestly tell you if we are stymied and will seek help.

NOTE: We do not give *medical* or *legal* advice.

If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system (*1 Corinthians 6:1-7*). Instead, an agreed process of Christian mediation will be sought to bring reconciliation.

I have read the conditions for biblical counseling set forth above and agree to enter into counseling in accordance with them:

Signed: _____

Date: _____