

## Biblical Counseling Consent Form of Immanuel Church

*We would like you to know that our counseling is distinctly biblical and that our counselors are not certified by the State of Tennessee. We are not licensed medical professionals, but instead are “pastoral counselors”, lay-counselors who offer care as a ministry of the local church.*

*If you would like this type of Biblical counseling, please read this Informed Consent thoroughly, ask us any questions you may have, and sign and date it prior to your first counseling session (you may do so electronically, or bring a signed copy with you to your first session).*

- All counseling is conducted in accordance with the counselor’s understanding of Scripture. Your counseling will be biblical with the Scriptures being the final authority in all cases.
- Your counseling sessions will take place at our ministry center counseling office. We will give you the address when we make your first appointment.
- If you are not sure that you will be interested in Christ-centered, biblical counseling, you have the option of attending one session 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.
- Information disclosed in counseling sessions will be held confidential only as the counselor believes the Bible or the State requires. Absolute confidentiality is not scriptural. In certain circumstances, the Bible requires that facts be disclosed to selected others (Matt. 18:15-20). If there are legal situations that need to be reported, we are obligated to do so. If we believe you are a danger to self or others, we will report this to your family or pastor and other appropriate authorities. If your church leadership should inquire, or if we deem it necessary, we will disclose to them only that information which we believe is necessary for them to effectively and biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you.
- At any time during the counseling for reasons sufficient to himself/herself, either the counselor-or the counselee - shall have the option of terminating counseling.
- We want you to understand that biblical counseling consists of giving scriptural advice and the practical application of the same to each individual. Yet, the

counselee is held fully responsible for how he or she implements that advice. We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). We believe there are no problems between persons which the Bible fails to address, either in general or in specific principles.

- Our counseling is not infallible. Nor do we pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life. We are well equipped however, and competent to help people change. We will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and our suggestions. Furthermore, we may at times, seek assistance from other trained counselors in their specific area of experience. In such cases, we will be careful not to divulge your identity.
- Frequently, we may have an observer sit in on your counseling session. This is because we are a training center and our staff and trainees benefit from this "hands-on" experience.
- Cancellation policy: please give 24 hour advance notice whenever possible if you must cancel a session. (If you have several incidences of last-minute cancellations, we will need to fill your spot with someone else and place you on the wait list before we resume counseling you. We will determine this at our discretion.)
- You are required to regularly attend a bible-believing local church in order to receive biblical counseling. If you do not have a church, we would like you to attend Immanuel Church.
- You will be given bible-based and practical homework assignments to complete between counseling sessions. It is critical that you commit to doing the homework in order for you to progress in counseling. If you are unwilling to follow through with homework, your counseling will be terminated. Please let us know if you have learning difficulties or preferences and we will accommodate your needs with a variety of types of assignments that you will be able to successfully accomplish.

At times our caseload requires us to place you on a waiting list. If you are on our waiting list, we offer these suggestions while you wait. Read your Bible and pray daily; go to a bible-believing church (we will be glad to make recommendations if you do not have a home church); talk to your pastor or other leader about your situation if you are in immediate need of care; call your physician if you are having physical symptoms or are unable to manage your daily routines; if you are suicidal call 911 and/or your nearest loved one. You can also call your physician and/or go to the local emergency room.

\*Please note that we do not give medical or legal advice.

\*If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties must agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system.

Your signature and date below indicates you have read this form in its entirety and agree with the terms and conditions of biblical counseling at Immanuel Church.

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

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