

## **Consent and Confidentiality Agreement**

### **The Goal:**

The 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.

### **Commitment to Biblical Counseling:**

*I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another (Rom. 15:14).*

This ministry is dedicated to promoting the authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the community of believers for solving the problems of life. I am not trained or licensed as a psycho-therapist or mental health professional. I believe that the Bible provides guidance and instruction for faith and life (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

### **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. I will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principles.

### **Legal Matters:**

I am unable to participate in legal proceedings as a witness for divorce and/or child custody cases.

### **Commitment to Limited Confidentiality:**

*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret (Prov. 11:13).*

The Bible teaches that Christians should carefully guard any personal and private information that others reveal to them. Protecting confidences is a sign of Christian love and respect (Matt. 7:12). It also discourages harmful gossip (Prov. 26:20), invites confession (Prov. 11:13), and thus encourages people to seek needed counseling. Since these goals are essential to the ministry of the gospel and the work of the local church, I will carefully protect your information.

Although confidentiality is to be respected as much as possible, there are times when it is appropriate to reveal certain information to others. In particular, when it is biblically necessary, I may disclose confidential information to appropriate people in the following circumstances:

- When I am uncertain of how to counsel a person about a particular problem and need to seek advice from other church leaders or Biblical counselors, I will do so without revealing your identity (Prov. 11:14);
- When a person refuses to repent of sin and it becomes necessary to promote repentance through accountability and redemptive church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20); or,
- And in some cases, when I am counseling a minor and the parents have a need to know certain information in order to protect their child or faithfully fulfill their biblical responsibilities.
- When the person who disclosed the information, or any other person, is in imminent danger of serious harm unless others intervene (Prov. 24:11-12). This includes suicidal intent with a plan or homicidal intentions with a plan; **(DUTY TO WARN)**
- When I am required by law to report suspected abuse (Rom. 13:1), including abuse of children and the elderly; **(DUTY TO WARN)**

*By signing below I indicate that I have read the Consent to Counsel and Duty to Warn. I acknowledge my understanding of the above statements and agree to biblical counseling as explained in these documents:*

*Dated* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: Parent or Guardian must sign for a child)