



Ambassador Bible Fellowship

Counseling Consent Form

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.

We're glad that you're taking this important step to seek godly counsel. Jesus says, *Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28). No matter what your situation, this is a time in your life that the God of all creation knows and understands completely and therefore, there is great hope! This form allows us to communicate some of our perspectives and convictions which we believe honors God and will help you.

Biblical Basis

We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. (2 Peter 1:3; Romans 15:4) Therefore, our counseling is based solely on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry.

In order to reinforce this conviction, **we ask** all of those we counsel to **commit to weekly attend** (1) Ambassador's Sunday morning **worship service**, (2) **Equipping Hour class**, and (3) a **Growth Group**. Other vital components to your growth will be assigned during the course of counseling. We are ready to help you each step along the way.

Not Professional Advice

Although some of the pastoral or lay counselors of this church may be licensed in other fields, such as medicine or psychology, they do not practice as professional doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists in their role as Ambassador Bible Fellowship Biblical Counselors. In this role, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do when they are hired in their professional capacities. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from independent professionals not associated with Ambassador Bible Fellowship. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant biblical principles. By signing this "Consent to Biblical Counseling" you agree to hold Ambassador Bible Fellowship harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. However, because we are continually training others to be effective counselors we ask that you agree to allow the possibility of counselors in training to be present during your sessions. Also, to provide accountability and to confirm that certain assignments are being implemented properly and in a timely manner, certain conversations may need to occur with those in your life, including your spouse, family member, or a Growth Group leader, etc.

Also, there are *five* other situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others:

- (1) When a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to **seek advice** from another pastor or elder in this church
- (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his/her **pastor, elders**
- (3) when there is a clear indication that you or someone else may be **harmed**, if we don't intervene
- (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)
- (5) when a counselor suspects or hears a confession regarding acts of **child abuse**—by the *perpetrator, victim or eye-witness*—Idaho law mandates that it be reported to the authorities.

Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they 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 counsees 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 you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with a pastor or elder. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/20____

This form must be signed, dated and returned to Bruce Groves, bruce@abfmeridian.org *before* counseling will begin