

# Whitesburg Baptist Biblical Counseling Ministry Informed Consent 2017

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

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

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

## **Information:**

This information is being provided so that you will understand the conditions for participating in our Biblical Counseling Ministry. Please read this carefully and be prepared to ask questions of your counselor about anything that seems unclear. Your initials in each section and your signature below indicate that you understand and agree to these conditions.

- Biblical Counseling is a ministry of Whitesburg Baptist Church and is available community-wide regardless of church affiliation or denomination.
- The counselors who work in this ministry are under authority of the Pastor of Whitesburg Baptist Church.
- Since the requests for counseling often exceed the number of trained Biblical Counselors available, a wait list is maintained. Every effort is expended to expeditiously accommodate those who desire Biblical Counseling while prioritizing cases as they present.

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## **Focus of Ministry:**

The Biblical Counseling Ministry provides insight and instruction based solely on content of the Bible. Our Ministry focus is to address Spiritual and Heart issues in short-term Bible based counseling. The goal of Biblical Counseling is Christ-conformity for God's glory and your good.

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## **Counseling Model:**

All of the WBC counselors are volunteers who have devoted many years to specialized training in Biblical Counseling. Several of our counselors have been certified by the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors ([www.biblicalcounseling.com](http://www.biblicalcounseling.com)). All WBC counselors provide Biblically based spiritual insight, as it pertains to any issue presented. Biblical Counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than the philosophies of secular psychology or psychiatry. The counselors are not trained or licensed as psycho-therapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods of such specialists. We strongly encourage same gender counseling.

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## **Appointments:**

We believe that your time is important. We also believe that work done in this ministry is a matter of stewardship. All counseling sessions are by appointment only.

- All requests for Biblical counseling should be made by calling **256-704-5678 ext. 721**.
- Weekly appointments are designed to be 50 minutes in length.
- Once a counselor has been assigned, communication is to be with the counselor, including when an appointment must be rescheduled or canceled.
- If you have scheduled an appointment and cannot attend, you *must notify your counselor 24 hours in advance* so that someone else who is in crisis may be scheduled for that appointment time.
- If you neglect to cancel your appointment and/or miss two consecutive appointments without notification, counseling may be terminated.
- At any time during the counseling process, for reason(s) sufficient to him/her, the Biblical Counselor, or you, the counselee, shall have the option of terminating counseling. If the counselee determines to terminate counseling, we request that the ministry be notified by calling **256-704-5678 ext. 721**.

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**Confidentiality:**

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the biblical counseling process. The Biblical Counseling Ministry will protect information accordingly. The following circumstances illustrate if/when it may be necessary for us to share information with others:

- If a counselor is uncertain how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another counselor or minister in this church;
- If content shared demands that we must comply with any and all applicable state and/or federal laws, such as those dealing with abuse or “duty to warn”;
- There is an indication that harm may come to the participant or someone else;
- It is determined by the Biblical Counseling staff that the church authority has a need to know;
- 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);
- A person attends another church and it is necessary for us to talk with his or her pastor/staff regarding an issue which falls under any of the above.

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**Resolution of Difficulties:**

On rare occasions a conflict may develop between an individual and our Biblical Counseling Ministry. To ensure the conflict will be resolved in a Biblically faithful manner, we require all parties involved to participate in mediation facilitated by the Pastoral staff and/or deacons of Whitesburg Baptist Church. Whitesburg Baptist Church and the counselee agree that should a dispute arise, any mediation will be considered binding. This mediation shall be in lieu of any court, and in lieu of any trial by jury.

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**Other Consideration:**

The Whitesburg Biblical Counseling Ministry is also a Biblical Counseling Training Center. Observation is essential to the training process. On occasion there may be observers in the counseling room. Observers are held to the highest standard of confidentiality. Counseling sessions may be recorded for training purposes and/or to fulfill requirements for ACBC Certification.

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**Agreement:**

I am requesting to receive Biblical counseling as it pertains to an issue in my life.

I will, under no circumstance, have the Biblical Counseling staff to be subpoenaed or require them to appear in court or legal suit regarding any matters disclosed or discussed during the course of my participation in this ministry.

I will, under no circumstance, have the Biblical Counseling notes subpoenaed for any legal proceedings whatsoever.

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My signature on this consent form affirms that I will not hold Whitesburg Baptist Church, the Pastor, the Biblical Counseling Ministry or any counselor liable for any perceived damages resulting from having received Biblical Counseling.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Having read the above mentioned information fully and completely, I agree to discuss any questions I may have with the Biblical Counseling staff.

**My signature below indicates that I understand all the material presented and fully agree to comply with all items.**

Name (*please print your name*): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian (*only if participant is under 19*): \_\_\_\_\_