

Consent to Biblical Counseling

Jersey Village Baptist Church

Counseling Center

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 offer counseling and discipleship free of charge, as a ministry of Jersey Village Baptist Church. Counselees may donate to the ministry, but this is not expected or required as a condition of counseling. You have no express or implied obligation to pay fees for the ministry you receive through Jersey Village Baptist church, excepting an initial \$25 cost to cover your counseling resources.

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

As a Christian religious ministry founded on biblical truth, Jersey Village Baptist Church Counseling recognizes marriage only as a union of one man and one woman, as God ordained in Genesis 2:24-25. Jersey Village Baptist counselors offer compassionate ministry to persons desiring to leave a sinful lifestyle but will not affirm any other arrangement as a valid marriage, regardless of any contrary definition that has been or in the future may be adopted by the civil authorities.

INITIALS _____

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 Jersey Village 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 Jersey Village Baptist Church. 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 Jersey Village Baptist Church harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

INIIALS _____

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 counselors in training to be present during your sessions. There are four 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 the church; (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; (3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless we otherwise intervene; or (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). 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.

INITIALS _____

What about my children? – No child care is provided. Only those who are in the counseling process are allowed in the waiting area of the Counseling Office. Children 16 years or younger assigned to counseling must be accompanied by one or both parents (guardian) who must be present in the Counseling Office during the duration of the child’s counseling.

What about missed appointments? – Because our counselors volunteer their time to this ministry it is important to be respectful of their families and their time. Participants are requested to cancel appointments at least 24 hours prior to the appointment. This gives others the opportunity to use that slot. In the event that an appointment is made and the participant misses the first appointment they will need to contact the Office to reschedule a new appointment. After beginning the counseling process only two missed appointments will be allowed before giving that allotted time to another participant. All counseling appointments must be scheduled through the Counseling Office.

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. (1 Corinthians 6:1-8)

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.

Signed _____

Dated _____