



**Our Goal** – Our goal in providing this counseling ministry is to help you meet the challenges and problems of your life in a way that will glorify God, please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ, allow you to fully appreciate his love for you and follow his plans for your life.

**Biblical Basis** – We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. Neither the pastoral nor the lay counselors are trained or licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods of such specialists. Your counselors are trained as pastoral counselors.

**Not Professional Advice** – If you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. 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 scriptural principles.

**Confidentiality** – Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are five situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: when a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from a pastor or elder in your church; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; when there is reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect; when there is reasonable suspicion of suicide or homicide by the counselee; or when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in their 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.

**Resolution of Conflicts** – On rare occasions a conflict may develop between a counselor and a 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 a counselor or the counseling center as a result of counseling will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Institute for Christian Conciliation; judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. (We will be happy to provide you with booklets that explain the Christian conciliation process and describe its benefits and procedures).

Having clearly stated 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 the usefulness in his kingdom. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with your counselor. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_