

Port City Community Church's Biblical Counseling Ministry

Informed Consent to Counsel

Our Goal: The purpose of biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ. We offer counseling free of charge, as a ministry of the Port City Community Church. You have no expressed or implied obligation to pay fees for the counseling you receive through Port City Community Church.

Biblical Basis: PC3's Counseling Ministry is strictly religious in nature, conducted under the authority and leadership of the church. We believe that God, through His revelation in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, has provided His people with thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3-4). Our counseling is based solely on scriptural principles. PC3 counselors are not trained or licensed as psychotherapists, or mental health professionals, and under North Carolina law no such licensing is required. The PC3 Biblical Counseling Ministry is not engaged in the practice of "Fee Based Pastoral Counseling" as defined in N.C. Gen.Stat. § 90-381 et seq.

Other Professional Advice: If you have significant medical, legal, financial, or other technical questions, you should seek advice from a competent independent professional. Our biblical counselors will cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of scriptural principles. More specifically, we urge our counselees to properly care for their physical bodies and to seek proper medical treatment for all physiological problems. Our counselors will assist you in responding to such problems in a godly manner, but our counsel is not intended to replace the services of a qualified physician where organic problems are present or where medication has been prescribed.

Conflict Resolution - Arbitration: On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a biblical counselor and counselee. 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 forbids Christians from bringing lawsuits against one another in secular courts of law. In order to ensure that such conflicts are resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute with a counselor or with this church will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration conducted in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. (A copy is available on request.) The arbiters will be the elders of Port City Community Church. It is expressly understood that, by consenting in advance to such arbitration, the counselee is waiving his right to a trial in the civil courts.

INITIALS _____
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Confidentiality: Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process. We will carefully guard the information you entrust to us to the fullest extent possible. There are times, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Where a person refuses to renounce a particular sin, it may become necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (Proverbs 15:22, 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20). In such cases, we will reveal only such information as is necessary for such purposes, and only to those biblically required to be involved. Where a counselee is a member of another church, it will most likely be necessary to contact the pastor and/or elder(s) of such church.

2. Where a counselee is, or has, been involved in activity that threatens the safety, structure, or integrity of a ministry of the church; the counselor may disclose details necessary to the ministry director and/or senior pastoral staff.

3. Where a counselor is uncertain as to how to address a particular counseling issue, he may seek advice from a pastor or another counselor.

4. Where a counselee threatens harm to himself or another person, it may be necessary to intervene in order to prevent such harm.

5. The law may require a counselor to reveal spousal or child abuse, or some other crime, to the appropriate authorities.

6. Observers may sit in on counseling sessions, either to assist in the process or for training purposes.

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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 grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact the Counseling Ministry at Port City Community Church at 910-796-0355. Your signature below indicates your **informed consent** to these guidelines.

Name _____

Signature _____ Dated _____

Name _____

Signature _____ Dated _____