



CONSENT TO COUNSEL

Our Goal: Our goal in providing biblical soul care 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 His love and 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 of this church are trained or licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods of such specialists. Counseling will be provided under the authority of the Elders of Harvest Bible Chapel of Kansas City.

Not Professional Advice: Some of our counselors may work in professional fields outside the church. When serving as counselors within this church, however, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do when they are hired in their professional capabilities. Therefore, 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 four 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 another pastor/counselor; when a counselee attends another church, and it is necessary to talk to his or her pastor/counselor; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; or when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others 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. As a ministry that recognizes the biblical and practical value of advocates, your counselor may require the presence of an advocate. In addition, our dedication to multiplying those who are competent to provide corrective and intensive counseling may include the presence of counselees in training to observe counseling sessions. Such presence will be discussed with you prior to such observations, and these individuals will be held to the same standards of confidentiality outlined in this paragraph.

Resolution of Conflict: On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts are resolved in a biblical manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with a counselor or with Harvest Bible Chapel staff as a result of counseling will be settled by mediation under the leadership of Harvest Bible Chapel of Kansas City. We will make every effort to resolve conflict in a manner according to the principles of scripture.

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 talk to the pastor/counselor or lay counselor. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Signed: _____

Date: _____