

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Biblical Counseling Collective

Introduction

Before we start meeting together, I would like you to know more about me and about our mutual responsibilities. I obtained a Master of Divinity degree in Biblical Counseling from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This is a theological, not medical degree. I am not a professional psychologist; I do not hold a license in the State of Tennessee to practice as a psychologist. My degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary bears no liability regarding my counseling. The advice I give is my own, stemming from a biblical worldview.

Accountability

I am counseling you independent of any institutional affiliation according to this private agreement. At the most basic level, I am a Christian giving advice for living based on my understanding of Scripture, in conjunction with historic Christianity. If you have any reservations about this, I would be happy to discuss them with you. You are of course free to decide if you would rather not have me be your counselor under these circumstances.

The Nature of Counseling with Me

I believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ is what will ultimately change how a person responds to the difficulties of their situation. You should expect my counseling to be shaped by a God-centered view of human life as found in the Christian Scriptures. This biblical view will take seriously the physical, social, and developmental aspects of your difficulties while calling you to make changes in your thinking and behavior.

I believe that people's souls are built up as they grow in their relationship with God. This process doesn't happen apart from our personal effort to seek Him. Expect that I will recommend that you engage in some spiritual practices to enhance your relationship with God. If necessary, depending on the need, I may refer to another professional who has more expertise than I.

You will likely be asked some questions about your past, present, family, church, social relationships, and spirituality to get to know you better. You do not have to answer any questions and can finish a session whenever you wish. Sessions will typically last about an hour.

Confidentiality

It is assumed that everything that is said to me will generally remain confidential, with the following caveats. Circumstances under which I might need to communicate to others regarding our counseling sessions include (but are not limited to): 1) A counselee indicates an intention to harm him or herself or someone else; 2) A counselee has committed sexual or physical abuse; 3) A counselee has engaging in repeated, ongoing serious immorality (e.g. adultery) that might require the involvement of one's church; 4) The counselee is a minor and I believe it is in the best interest of the child to disclose information to the parent; or 5) A court of law requires the release of information given in our sessions. You will be free to sign

a release-of-information form designating someone you permit me to speak with about your situation.

In situations involving women as counselees, I may require a third-party presence. If the woman is married, this will preferably be her husband. Another trustworthy woman is also ideal. Additionally, I reserve the right to discuss issues with my wife, who will observe the same rules of confidentiality that I do, and perhaps bring her into the counseling situation if I deem it in the best interest of the female counselee.

Your Rights

As a counselee you have the right to discuss possible outcomes and challenges regarding the counseling and receive an estimate of the predicted length, goals, and outcome of the counseling, as well as alternative options to that counseling. You have the right to ask about and/or refuse any techniques used. You may conclude meeting with me at any time.

Fees

To encourage active involvement and to compensate for services rendered, the rate for my counseling services is \$75 for a 50-minute individual session, or \$120 for marital counseling session.

As a counselee, I understand the following:

- 1. Michael Guinn is not a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist. I agree not to expect or rely on the application of any rules or regulations issued by the State of Tennessee for professional counselors or interns.
- 2. Michael Guinn counsels from a Christian framework as described above.
- 3. All counseling is confidential with the exceptions noted above. I agree not to expect strict confidentiality, but to expect that Michael Guinn will exercise his discretion based on what he believes is in my best interest in determining whether to communicate what we discuss to others.
- 4. I am free to end the counseling at any time.
- 5. Michael Guinn is free to end the counseling at any time.
- 6. Before concluding counseling permanently, I may be referred to another counselor or psychiatrist.
- 7. Out of courtesy, I will give at least 24 hours prior notice before canceling an appointment.

I have read this form and the above conditions and understand the nature of this counseling and agree to abide by the conditions.

_____	_____	_____
Counselee Printed Name	Counselee Signature	Date

_____	_____
Counselor	Date