

GRACE COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

**24422 Kuykendahl Rd., Tomball, TX 77375
281-351-6500**

If you are interested in receiving counseling at Grace Community Bible Church, please read and sign the following document before beginning any counseling sessions.

The Pastors and counselors at Grace Community Bible Church are available to take a limited number of counseling cases. Our counselors, by design, are not certified by the state of Texas but have training and experience in biblical counseling. All counseling will be conducted in accordance with the counselor's understanding of the Scriptures. Your counseling will be biblical, meaning that the Scriptures will be the authority in all cases.

If you are attending a church other than Grace Community Bible Church, we encourage you to seek counseling from a pastor, elder, or counselor at that church. If counseling from the church you attend is not possible, please talk with our counselor and explain the reasons why.

It is expected that the counselee will regularly attend Sunday morning worship on a *weekly* basis. If the counselee does not faithfully attend worship, counseling may be canceled until he or she resumes attending on Sundays. For changes in people to be lasting, people need more than the help they receive in formal counseling. They need the total ministry of a church in which the preaching, teaching and fellowship are providing the same kind of help that is given in the counseling sessions.

Any homework given to the counselee must be completed on time or counseling will stop until the homework is completed.

It is also expected that the counselee will *not* seek outside counsel during their counseling sessions, whether from a psychologist or a certified biblical counselor.

Absolute confidentiality is *not* scriptural. In certain circumstances the Bible requires that facts be disclosed to selected others (Matt. 18:15ff). If your church leadership should inquire, we will disclose to them only that information which we believe is necessary for them to fulfill their responsibility effectively and biblically in order to shepherd you. If you have a problem with this procedure, please discuss your concerns and reasons with your counselor.

At any time during the counseling, for reasons sufficient to himself/herself, the counselor – as also the counselee – shall have the option of terminating counseling.

Grace Community Bible Church does not charge a fee for counseling. However, since there are costs involved in maintaining this ministry, counselees may want to express their gratitude or desire to help maintain the ministry in a tangible way through donations. Donations should be made to Grace Community Bible Church and not to the counselor. Also, part of the weekly

homework assignments may require purchasing materials that relate to the counseling being done. Counselees are expected to pay for this material.

It should be understood that biblical counseling will involve giving scriptural teaching and making practical application to each individual. The counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that counsel.

At Grace Community Bible Church, we not only do counseling but are devoted to training biblical counselors. This means that the counselor may have one to two people assisting him/her in each counseling session. Couple counseling may be encouraged at times, depending upon the situation.

We are confident that the Bible is sufficient for all of life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). There are no problems between persons or in persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific principles. Our counselors are not infallible, nor do they pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life, but they are well equipped and competent to help people change. They will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and their personal suggestions. Counselors will also honestly tell you if they are stymied and will seek help. Please note that we do not give medical or legal advice.

If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties must agree to resolve the dispute *outside* the secular court system. Conciliation will be sought under submission to and direction of the elders of Grace Community Bible Church of Tomball, Texas.

These are the basic expectations for receiving counseling at Grace Community Bible Church. It is expected that the counselee will abide by these rules during counseling. Failure to follow these stipulations will bring counseling sessions to a halt or end the counseling process completely. If you are willing to enter into the kind of counseling described in this statement, please sign below as indicated and bring this signed form with you to your first counseling session.

I have read and agree with the conditions for counseling at Grace Community Bible Church:

Printed Name _____

Signed _____

Date _____