

Matthew E. Magee Biblical Counseling

Consent to Biblical Counseling

OUR APPROACH

Biblical Basis: The Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and a life that is pleasing to God (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3ff). Therefore, biblical counseling is based upon scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. **In order to support this conviction, I ask all of those I counsel to be regular attendees to a Sunday morning worship service while you are in counseling, either with us at Oak Grove Church, or at the church of your membership or the pastor who referred you to me.**

Not Professional Advice: I practice as a biblical discipleship counselor under the authority of the Elders of Oak Grove Church, or in cooperation with your local church pastor and elders/deacons. As such, if you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from an independent professional. I am happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in light of relevant scriptural principles, but do not give “professional” advice.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In relationship with your pastor/elders, and at Oak Grove Church, I desire to grow in caring for those in our flock who are hurting. It is imperative to our mission and your long-term care that we stay in consistent and regular communication with the leadership of Oak Grove Church (elders, pastoral staff, and biblical counseling leadership), or the pastors/elders at your church, and/or the person you have designated/chosen/agreed to as your advocate. This form gives us permission to discuss what we deem to be the necessary information regarding your situation with the appropriate and concerned parties in accordance with the confidentiality guidelines explained below. Please read the following information carefully.

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the biblical counseling relationship and I will carefully guard the information you entrust to me. All communications between you and me will be held in strict confidence unless you (or a parent in the case of a minor) give authorization to release this information. The exceptions to this would be:

1. If a person expresses an intent to harm him/herself or someone else.
2. If there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elder adult, or dependent adult.
3. If a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information.
4. In discussions with the elders, pastoral staff or biblical counseling leadership of Oak Grove Church or your church, previous counselor(s), and/or your advocate for the sole purpose of gaining information for your care or to help in follow up and after care.
5. When a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice and wisdom from an Oak Grove Church elder, pastoral staff, your pastor or elders, or another biblical counseling leader.
6. If a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin after several conversations (habitual unrepentant rebellion against God’s Word) and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance, restoration, and reconciliation (Prov 15:22; 24:11; Matt 18:15-20) and Oak Grove Church, or your church’s, Discipline Policy.

In all situations, we will make every effort to be sensitive to your situation. Please be assured, our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose any of this personal information to others. We will strive to help you resolve the difficult situations you are experiencing as discretely as possible.

RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS

On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. In order to make sure any such conflicts are resolved in a Biblical manner, we require all counsees to agree any dispute arising with a counselor, with Oak Grove Church staff, or your church leadership, as a result of counseling, will be settled by mediation under the leadership of Oak Grove Church, myself, and your church's leadership. The undersigned hereby expressly waives any right to maintain a civil action/suit against Oak Grove Church, Matthew E. Magee, and your church, by virtue of the counseling services provided, or any action related thereto. We will make every effort to resolve conflict in a manner according to the principles of scripture (I Cor 6-7).

RELEASE OF LIABILITY / COVENANT NOT TO SUE

The undersigned do now remise, release, acquit, satisfy and forever discharge Matthew E. Magee, Oak Grove Church (and your home church) and their officers, directors, agents, employees, independent contractors, counselors, volunteers, successors and assigns and other persons or any other party involved in or related to biblical counseling services from all actions, causes of action, suits, damages, judgements, executions, claims and demands whatsoever in law or in equity, which the undersigned may ever had, now have or may have in the future, or which any personal representative, successor, heir or assign of the undersigned in the future can, shall or may have, for any reason or out of or relating in any fashion whatsoever to the undersigned participation in biblical counseling or any action pursuant to biblical counseling, whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

The undersigned covenants not to sue or otherwise assert a claim of any nature whatsoever against Matthew E. Magee, Oak Grove Church, your home church, its counselors, officers, directors, volunteers, or employees arising out of or in any way related to the undersigned's involvement in Biblical counseling. By signing this *Consent to Counsel* you agree to hold Matthew E. Magee, Oak Grove Church, and your home church, harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

CONCLUSION & SIGNATURE

Having clarified the principles and policies of our discipleship 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 usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines or conditions, please speak with Matthew E. Magee, your pastor or an elder of Oak Grove Church.

Having read the above information and conditions fully and completely, my signature below indicates that I understand all the material presented and fully agree to comply.

Signature

Printed Name or Name of Minor

Date