

# Matthew E. Magee Biblical Counseling

## **Welcome**

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Matthew E. Magee Biblical Counseling ministry. It is my desire to speak God's truth in love in our conversations. The path to maturity is often steep, rough and at times filled with pain and confusion. However, there are answers, and the Bible is God's all-sufficient guide for relational living. There is a route to life, and Jesus is the Way. Christ is the Truth who frees us to love. He is the Life who satisfies the deepest thirsts of our soul. My goal is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 1:8-9) and allow you to fully enjoy His love for you and His plans for your life (John 15:11).

## **MY MISSION & EDUCATION**

Helping those struggling by providing hope and healing through God's sufficient Word, with Spirit-led wisdom and guidance from counselors aiming to be wholehearted followers of Christ.

I don't put too much stock in a framed credential on a wall, but some find it helpful to know what my training has included. To that end alone I share my credentials with you. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies from The Moody Bible Institute, a Master of Divinity with The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and am pursuing a Doctorate in Biblical Counseling through Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I am also a certified biblical counselor with The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors ([biblicalcounseling.com](http://biblicalcounseling.com)), a member of The Association of Biblical Counselors, a core team member with the Eastern Iowa Biblical Counseling Coalition, and a pastor of a local church.

Most importantly, I am a happy husband and father to two boys! They are my primary ministry and, next to Jesus, my joy in this life!

I provide counseling for the following areas:

- Individual biblical counseling regarding spiritual and personal issues.
  - Biblical counseling for specific issues such as, but not limited to the following: substance abuse, domestic abuse (abused and abuser), depression/anxiety, self harm, eating disorders, and unplanned pregnancies.
- Premarital and marital biblical counseling
- Family/parental biblical counseling: with children under the age of thirteen, we work primarily with the parents and/or with the parents and children together.
- Adolescent biblical counseling: with parental consent and involvement
- Financial biblical counseling

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Counseling sessions are **\$75/session** and must be paid at least every two weeks. I have found this prevents costs from adding up to be too much to handle for some. In the event of a cancellation, cancellations must be made in writing via email to [matthew@matthewemagee.com](mailto:matthew@matthewemagee.com) at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the session, otherwise the session fee will be charged.

Part of the weekly biblical counseling homework assignments will usually require the purchase of materials that correspond to the discipleship.

## MY COMMITMENT TO YOU

What do I mean by *biblical counseling*? Biblical counselors are spiritual friends committed to the historic church roles of soul care and *biblical direction* through:

- **Sustaining:** Empathizing with your suffering, helping you to understand that *“it’s normal to hurt.”*
- **Healing:** Encouraging you to see life from a biblical perspective, helping you to know that *“it’s possible to hope.”*
- **Reconciling:** Examining and exposing your current responses to life and suggesting new ways of handling problems, helping you to see that *“it’s horrible to sin but wonderful to be forgiven.”*
- **Guiding:** Empowering you to mature through Christ and helping you to grasp that *“it’s supernatural to mature.”*

Because I care about **you**, my desire is for you to be drawn closer to Christ and to become more like Christ, which is *your life increasingly reflecting the life of Christ*:

- **Relational Maturity:** Loving God wholeheartedly and loving others sacrificially.
- **Rational Maturity:** Wisely living according to the truth of Christ’s gospel of grace.
- **Volitional Maturity:** Courageously choosing to pursue God’s purposes in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Emotional Maturity:** Deeply and honestly experiencing life with integrity, fully open to God while managing your moods for God’s glory and with a ministry focus.

## YOUR COMMITMENT TO CHRIST, YOURSELF, YOUR LOVED ONES, and ME

I ask that you commit to:

- Honestly and openly sharing your hurts and struggles.
- Evaluating your own emotions, actions, motivations, beliefs, and relationships.
- Actively participating in the growth of renewed emotions, actions, convictions, and desires.
- Coming to each meeting prepared to review your progress throughout the last week (including the completion of personalized “homework” assignments) and prepared to share your goals for the present meeting.

Because the Bible teaches that growth in Christ requires all the resources of the body of Christ (i.e. discipleship, worship, fellowship, stewardship, and ambassadorship, in addition to biblical counseling), it is essential that you commit to the following:

- Regular church attendance (at your church or our church if local).
- Active participation in an adult Bible study community.
- Having an advocate relationship (a trusted Christian friend) with a person of your same sex to help you as you go through counseling (see Advocacy Form for more information).

Please sign below to indicate your understanding of, agreement with, and commitment to Matthew E. Magee Biblical Counseling as described above.

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Signature

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Printed Name or Name of Minor

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Date