



COUNSELING AGREEMENT

Please indicate that you have read, understood, and agreed with each of the following by initialing each statement, signing and dating below.

- _____ 1) I, _____, am voluntarily entering into a spiritual counseling relationship. I understand that this counselor is providing his/her time as an act of Christian ministry in association with Valley Bible Church. I acknowledge that this counselor does not necessarily have any specialized training or credentialing in secular counseling. The counselor has been recognized and endorsed by the Valley Bible Church Elder Board as gifted in the areas of discernment, exhortation, encouragement, healing, and mercy, and who lives a life above reproach.
- _____ 2) I will be counseled according to the principles found in the Bible, which is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be adequate and equipped for every good work (2 Tim 3:16), knowing that in God's divine power He has given to us everything pertaining to life and Godliness (2 Pet 1:3).
- _____ 3) Biblical counseling consists of the giving of Scriptural counsel and the practical application thereof. It is, however, the counselee's full responsibility for how or if they implement that counsel.
- _____ 4) Though there are no problems which the Bible fails to answer, your counselor is not infallible, nor does he/she pretend to know all there is to know about specific Biblical teachings or applications. While they are well-equipped and competent to provide spiritual counseling, your counselor will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and their own suggestions. Counselors will honestly tell you if they, for any reason, feel that they cannot provide adequate counsel.
- _____ 5) The faithful completion of any homework assignments is necessary to the effectiveness of counsel.
- _____ 6) The openness and honesty with which you interact with your counselor will have a direct impact on the ability of your counselor to give you effective and complete counsel.
- _____ 7) All counseling is done free of charge as a ministry of Valley Bible Church.



- _____ 8) Information shared in counseling will not be released from these sessions except with the consent of the counselee or their parents or guardians. However, Washington State Law requires the reporting and release of information as it relates to suspected child abuse, potential suicidal behavior, and threats of harm to others. Additionally, in certain select circumstances, a court of law may subpoena some or all records.

- _____ 9) Your counselor may disclose information to church leadership (elders and pastors) that he/she believes is necessary for them to effectively and Biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you.

- _____ 10) At times, and with your full prior approval, your counselor may bring outside individuals into the counseling session when they feel it is to your benefit to do so.

- _____ 11) Valley Bible Church, Bridge Ministries, and your counselor, will not give professional medical or legal advice.

I have read, understood, and agreed to each of the above statements, as noted by my initialing each item. I further agree not to hold the counselor, Bridge Ministries, Valley Bible Church, or Valley Bible Church's leadership financially or legally responsible for the results of the counsel provided or for any decisions I make on the basis of that counsel.

Signed _____ Date _____

Counselor Signature _____ Date _____