



**BIBLICAL COUNSELING  
PRE-APPOINTMENT PAPERWORK**

200 Hunt Road, Jamestown, NY 14701 ❖ 716-484-9221 ❖ www.betheljtn.org

**PERSONAL DATA INVENTORY**

**IDENTIFICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Height \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status (check)  Single  Going Steady  Engaged  
 Married  Separated  Divorced  Widowed

Education (last year completed): \_\_\_\_\_

Other Training (list type and year): \_\_\_\_\_

Referred here by: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH**

Rate your health (check)  Very Good  Good  Average  Declining  Other

Your approximate weight: \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. Weight changes recently:  Lost \_\_\_\_\_  Gained \_\_\_\_\_

List all important present or past illnesses or injuries: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of last medical examination: \_\_\_\_\_ Report: \_\_\_\_\_

Your physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently taking medication?  Yes  No If yes, please list prescription names, strengths, & dosages:

Have you ever had a severe emotional upset?  Yes  No If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been arrested?  Yes  No

Are you willing to sign a release of information form that your counselor may write for social, psychiatric, or medical reports?  Yes  No

Have you recently suffered the loss of someone who was close to you??  Yes  No If yes, please explain:

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**RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND**

Denominational preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Member?  Yes  No

Church attendance per month (circle): 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10+

Church attended in childhood: \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized?  Yes  No

Religious background of spouse, if married: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you consider yourself a religious person?  Yes  No  Uncertain what you mean

Do you believe in God?  Yes  No  Uncertain what you mean

Do you pray to God?  Never  Occasionally  Often How often? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you saved?  Yes  No  Uncertain what you mean

How often do you read your Bible?  Never  Occasionally  Often How often? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have regular family devotions (if married)?  Yes  No  Uncertain what you mean

Explain recent changes in your religious life, if any \_\_\_\_\_

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**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Have you ever had any psychotherapy or counseling before?  Yes  No If yes, list the counselor or therapist, dates, areas covered: \_\_\_\_\_

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Outcome: \_\_\_\_\_

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Circle any of the following words which best describe you now: *active ambitious self-confident persistent nervous hardworking impatient impulsive moody often-blue excitable imaginative calm serious easy-going shy quiet good-natured introvert extrovert likeable leader callous submissive lonely self-conscious sensitive*

other \_\_\_\_\_

- Have you ever felt people watching you?  Yes  No
- Do people's faces ever seem distorted?  Yes  No
- Do colors ever seem too bright?  Yes  No
- Are you sometimes unable to judge distance?  Yes  No
- Have you ever hallucinated?  Yes  No
- Is your hearing exceptionally good?  Yes  No
- Are you afraid of being in a car?  Yes  No
- Do you have problems sleeping?  Yes  No

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INFORMATION**

Name of spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Your spouse's age \_\_\_\_\_ Education (last year completed) \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse willing to come for counseling?  Yes  No

Have you ever been separated?  Yes  No When? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Your ages when married: Husband \_\_\_\_\_ Wife \_\_\_\_\_

How long did you know your spouse before marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Length of steady dating with spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Length of engagement \_\_\_\_\_

Did you receive premarital counseling?  Yes  No If so, how many sessions? \_\_\_\_\_

Give brief information about any previous marriages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Information about your children** (check PM if child is by previous marriage):

PM	Name	Age	Sex	Living (circle)	Education (years)	Marital Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Yes No	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Yes No	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Yes No	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	Yes No	_____	_____

If you were reared by anyone other than your own parents, briefly explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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How many older siblings do you have?      \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers      \_\_\_\_\_ Sisters

How many younger siblings do you have?      \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers      \_\_\_\_\_ Sisters

### **BASIC INFORMATION**

**Briefly answer the following questions:**

1. From your perspective, what would you say is/are the problem(s)?

2. What have you done about it so far?

3. What would you like your counselor to do (what are your expectations of our time)?

4. As you see yourself, what kind of person are you? Describe yourself.

5. Is there any other information your counselor should know? (Feel free to use another page of paper)

## CONSENT TO BIBLICAL COUNSEL/DISCIPLESHIP

On the date set forth below, it is agreed that \_\_\_\_\_ (“Counselor”) will provide biblical counseling services to \_\_\_\_\_ (“Counselee”) on the following terms and conditions:

**Biblical Counseling:** This is a ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is part of Counselor’s practice of religion. Counselee has indicated that Counselee is a Christian and is voluntarily seeking religious guidance (biblical counseling) from Counselor, as a part of Counselee’s practice of religion. The goal of biblical counseling is to help Christians become more like Jesus Christ in attitude, thought, and action. Counselor’s goal in providing counseling is to help Counselee live life in a God—honoring way. This includes, but is not limited to, providing biblical counsel to assist in meeting the challenges of life, shedding the sin that so easily entangles, learning to develop, cultivate, and live in relationships that please God, giving thanks to God in all circumstances, living in a community of other believers through participation in a local church, and learning to rely on the Holy Spirit for direction as Counselee seeks to know God through the Bible. Although the biblical advice Counselor provides is intended to be practical, it is entirely Counselee’s decision how to (and whether to) implement that advice. Counselor wants to help Counselee love God and love others through this process.

**Biblical Basis:** Counselor believes that the Bible provides sufficient guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, counseling is based on biblical principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. Counselor is not licensed or certified as a psychotherapist, psychologist, psychiatrist, mental health professional, marriage and family therapist, or social worker, and is not acting in such capacities. If Counselee is unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority in counseling or is unwilling to do the homework assigned, Counselee should not proceed with this counseling.

**Professional Advice:** Counselor is not providing legal, tax, financial, medical, or other technical or professional advice and Counselor undertakes no duty to recognize or instruct when such advice is actually needed, and the parties further agree that no fiduciary or professional client relationship is being created between Counselor and Counselee as a result of this relationship. While the counselee may provide remuneration for the ministerial services provided pursuant to the agreement, such remuneration does not change this relationship from a religious to a “professional” or “fiduciary” relationship.

**Confidentiality:** Confidentiality is conditional. Although confidentiality is often one aspect of the counseling process and Counselor intends to guard the information received from Counselee, there are a number of situations when it may be necessary or prudent (as determined in Counselor’s sole discretion) for Counselor to share information with others. Counselee agrees that Counselor may share information in at least the following circumstances:

- When Counselor is uncertain how to address a problem and needs to seek advice from a pastor, supervising counselor, or educator (Proverbs 11:14; 24:6).
- When there is concern that someone is being or may be harmed unless other persons or protective services intervene (Romans 13:1-7).
- When Counselee expresses clear and specific suicidal intent, Counselor may take reasonable measure for the safety of Counselee. Reasonable measures may include notifying police if the Counselee will not cooperate to involve him or herself in a watch-care program or facility.
- If Counselor has reasonable cause to believe that an adult is in need of protective services, Counselor may take reasonable measures to prevent harm. Reasonable measures may include directly advising the potential victim of a threat or intent and/or informing the appropriate protective and/or law enforcement agencies.
- If there is a claim of, the observance of, or clear reasonable cause to suspect the physical or sexual abuse of a child with whom Counselor comes into contact or who is associated with someone to whom Counselor is in contact, reasonable measures may be taken to ensure the child’s protection and/or to fulfill the legal mandate to report such harm to the appropriate governmental protection agencies.
- When Counselor becomes aware of any other criminal activity Counselee is engaged in and which Counselee refuses to bring to the appropriate biblical and or legal authorities.

- When counseling someone who is under familial authority (e.g. wife to husband, child to parent) and if deemed safe by Counselor, Counselor may encourage Counselee to inform Counselee’s familial authority of critical issues and/or Counselor may inform the familial authority (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).
- When a person refuses to renounce a particular sin and/or refuses to confess it to those impacted, Counselor may in Counselor’s discretion, seek the assistance of a trusted member or leader of any involved church to encourage repentance and/or reconciliation (Proverb 14:22, 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).
- When Counselor deems it appropriate or necessary to discuss information with a training observer or an assisting advocate who is involved or observing counseling.
- When Counselee makes a complaint against Counselor, an ACBC counselor, or a counseling center or other related organization, it is agreed that the dispute will be handled biblically, outside the court, and may involve sharing information with an assisting local Church Shepherd and/or the appropriate person(s) within the ACBC organization for complaint resolution purposes.

*Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose your personal information to others (if not needed), and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.*

**Liability:** It is intended that the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) shall be the authority governing the counseling process, and that God’s glory is the ultimate goal. However, failure of Counselor to interpret or apply the Bible in any particular way shall not subject the Counselor to liability or give rise to complaint by anyone. There shall be no legal or other liability that attaches to Counselor or any related institution or person for any advice, methods, conduct, or any act or omission related in any way to the service that is provided, and Counselee acknowledges that Counselee is voluntarily seeking this counsel (free from coercion duress, or pressure) with a full understanding of the nature, purpose, and effect of this agreement.

**Termination:** At any time and for any reason, Counselor or Counselee may terminate counseling. However, termination will not preclude Counselor from making the disclosures set forth above if deemed appropriate by Counselor, or if compelled by other legal means. Counselor is not required to keep records, but if records are made, Counselor may destroy any such records without incurring liability.

**Resolution of Conflict:** On rare occasions, a conflict may develop between a Counselor and a Counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner (the Bible prohibits lawsuits in court among believers – 1 Corinthians 6:1-8), the parties agree that if a conflict arises, the conflict will be resolved according to the ACBC dispute resolution proceedings, which are then operative. That conflict resolution policy may be found at <https://biblicalcounseling.com/acbc-member>.

**BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, YOU ARE IRREVOCABLY WAIVING ANY RIGHT THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY OR JUDGE IN A JUDICIAL PROCEEDING.**

If any provision of this agreement shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, only that provision shall be stricken and the remainder of the agreement shall be in no way affected. By signing below, the parties agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this document and acknowledge that Counselor would not enter into this counseling relationship without each term set forth above.

***All of the above is understood and agreed:***

**[PRINT NAME]** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**[SIGNATURE]** \_\_\_\_\_