

## Consent to Biblical Counseling

### Our Goal

Our goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 10:31) and will bring you the greatest joy and satisfaction (John 15:11)

### Biblical Basis

As Christians we believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. (II Peter 1:3 and Romans 15:4) Therefore, our counseling is based only on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. Heart Talk counselors are not trained or licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods of such specialists.

### Not Professional Advice

If you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from another independent professional. I will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant scriptural principle.

### Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and I will carefully guard the information you entrust to me. There are situations when it would be wise of biblically mandated for me to share certain information with others:

- (1) When uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needing to seek advice from another pastor, elder, or counselor;
- (2) When there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless I otherwise intervene;
- (3) When abuse or another crime must be reported to authorities;
- (4) When the counselee's pastor, staff and/or church leadership is needed to provide pastoral assistance;
- (5) When a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20).

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

### Fees

Counseling fees are determined according to your income level and may be found at <https://hearttalkcounseling.com/about/fees>. In addition, you may be required to purchase materials associated with the counseling process. Those materials are yours to keep.

### Resolution of Conflicts

On rare occasions a conflict may arise between a counselor and counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with the counselor or with this church as a result of counseling will be settled with mediation within the church

according to the principles of scripture and the authority of this local church. *It is expressly understood that by agreeing in advance to arbitrate that the counselee is giving up his right to a trial in the civil courts.*

**Conclusion**

Having clarified the principles and policies of our 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, please don't hesitate to ask.

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

**Name Of Counselee (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*\* only required if counselee is under 18 years of age*