



Gateway Biblical Counseling & Training Center  
Wise Counsel from God's Word  
A ministry of Edgemont Bible Church

## GATEWAY BIBLICAL COUNSELING & TRAINING CENTER (GBCTC)

### CONSENT TO COUNSELING

***Our Goal*** — Our goal in providing Christian counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life. We offer counseling free of charge, as a ministry of the Gateway Biblical Counseling & Training Center and Edgemont Bible Church. Counselees may donate to the ministry, but this is not expected or required as a condition of counseling. You have no express or implied obligation to pay fees for the counseling you receive through GBCTC.

***Biblical Basis*** — We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3-4) rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. We reject the teachings and methods of modern psychology or psychiatry, whether expressly secular or an attempted integration with biblical principles. Neither the pastoral nor the lay counselors of this church are trained or licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor should they be expected to follow the methods of such specialists. Initials \_\_\_\_\_

***Not Professional Advice*** — If you have significant medical, legal, financial, or technical questions, you should seek advice from a competent independent professional. Our counselors will cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of scriptural principles. More specifically, we urge our counselees to properly care for their physical bodies and to seek proper medical treatment for all physiological problems. Our counselors will assist you in responding to such problems in a godly manner, but our counsel is not intended to replace the services of a qualified physician where organic problems are present or where medication has been prescribed.

***Confidentiality*** — Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are five situations, however, when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: when a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or elder in this church; when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene; when law may require a counselor to reveal spousal or child abuse, or some other crime, to the appropriate authorities or 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). Initials \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

***Resolution of Conflict*** — On rare occasions a conflict may develop between a counselor and a counselee. I Corinthians 6:1-8 forbids Christians from bringing lawsuits against one another in secular courts of law. 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 a counselor or with this church as a result of counseling will be settled by mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure* of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. The arbiters will be the elders of Edgemont Bible Church. If one or more elders of the church are party to the dispute, then three arbiters will be selected from Official Board of Edgemont Bible Church. Each party to the dispute will choose one arbiter, and the two arbiters then selecting the third. It is expressly understood that, by consenting in advance to such arbitration, the counselee is waiving his right to a trial in the civil courts. Initials \_\_\_\_\_ We will be happy to provide you with booklets that explain the Christian conciliation process and describe its benefits and procedures.



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**Training** — Counseling sessions may include a counselor in training. These individuals are subject to the same professional and ethical standards as your counselor.

**Cancellation Policy** – When you arrive for your first counseling session you will be required to submit a \$25.00 cancellation fee. If you do not call to cancel an appointment within 24 hours of your scheduled appointment, you forfeit your cancellation fee. You will need to submit another \$25.00 before continuing your counseling sessions. If you attend or properly cancel all sessions, your cancellation fee will be returned at your final counseling session.

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 talk with your counselor. Your signature below indicates your informed consent to these guidelines.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_