

The Jonathan Project
A Biblical Counseling Ministry

Understanding Biblical Counseling

Please read this fact sheet carefully. It explains what you can expect from biblical counseling and what is expected from you. After you have read it, please sign the form indicating that you have read it, and bring it with you to your first appointment. You should print a second copy to keep for your own records.

- Bring a notebook and your bible.
- By design, our counselors are not required to be certified by the state of Florida but have had extensive training and experience in biblical counseling. All counselors either hold certification from The Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) or are in the process of obtaining certification by that national organization.
- If you seek Biblical counseling from The Jonathan Project we want you to know that all counseling will be conducted in accordance with the counselor's understanding of the Holy Scriptures. Your counseling will be biblical, meaning that the Scriptures will be the authority in all cases. If you are unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority and are unwilling to do the homework assigned, sessions will not continue.
- We encourage you to invite the pastor from your local church or someone in its leadership to accompany you to the counseling sessions. We recognize and respect the authority and the discipline of your church. This will also make the transfer back to the pastoral care of your church much easier to affect. If you are not attending a church or if your church is not structured to provide the kind of counseling received at The Jonathan Project, we will expect you to attend a local church on a weekly basis. Our experience has been that for changes in people to be lasting, people need more than the help they receive in formal counseling. They need the total ministry of a church in which the preaching, teaching and fellowship are providing the same kind of help that is given in the counseling sessions.
- Absolute confidentiality is not scriptural. In certain circumstances, the Bible requires that facts be disclosed to select others (Matt. 18:15ff). If your church leadership should inquire, we will disclose to them only that information which we believe is necessary for them to effectively and biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you. If you have a problem with this procedure, please discuss your concerns and reasons for those concerns with your counselor. At any time during the counseling, for reasons sufficient to himself/herself, the counselor – as also the counselee -- shall have the option of terminating counseling.
- The Jonathan Project is a “fee for service” non-profit organization. The fee is \$100.00 per session which lasts from 1 ½ to 2 hours long. We offer a discount to those who are in financial need but require the church to confirm and vet the counselee(s) finances. The church may choose to pay the discounted fee of \$50.00 per session.
- You should understand that biblical counseling involves giving scriptural teaching and making practical application of the same to each individual. The counselee is fully responsible for how he implements that counsel. At the Jonathan Project, we are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (2 Pet.1:3). There are no problems between persons or in persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific principles. Our counselors are not infallible, nor do they pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life, but they are well equipped and competent to help people

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change. They will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and their suggestions. Counselors will also honestly tell you if they are stymied and will seek help. (Please note that we do not give medical or legal advice).

- If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties must agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system. If you are willing to enter the kind of counseling described in this statement, please sign below as indicated and bring this signed form with you to your first counseling session along with your bible and a notebook.

I have read the conditions for counseling set forth in this letter and agree to enter counseling in accordance with them:

Signed _____

Date _____