



DEFINITION OF BIBLICAL ETHICS

Biblical ethics can be viewed as values in action or the practical rules and boundaries mandated by God in His Word that guide our professional and ministry behavior.



BIBLICAL-ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS

1st FOUNDATION:

Jesus Christ—and His revelation in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as the inspired Word of God—is the pre-eminent model for Biblical counseling and the final authority for all matters about which it speaks.

2nd FOUNDATION:

Biblical counselors maintain a committed, intimate, and dedicated relationship with a local body of believers.

3rd FOUNDATION:

Biblical counseling, at its best, is a Spirit-led process of change, transformation, and growth geared to help others mature in Christ.

4th FOUNDATION:

Biblical counselors are dedicated to Jesus Christ, to excellence in client service, to ethical integrity in practice, and to respect for everyone encountered.

5th FOUNDATION:

Biblical counselors accord the highest respect to biblical revelation regarding the inherent God-given worth and dignity of human personhood, the sanctity and defense of human life, and the sanctity of marriage and family life.

6th FOUNDATION:

Biblical counselors express appropriate care towards any client without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual behavior or orientation, socioeconomic status, age, disability, marital status, education, occupation, denomination, belief system, values, or political affiliation.

“So then, while we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those in the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR ALL BIBILICAL COUNSELORS

Client Consent

Biblical counselors secure client consent for all counseling and related services prior to the initiation of care or services. This includes the video/audiotaping of client sessions, the use of supervisory and consultative help, the application of special procedures and evaluations, and the communication of client data with other professionals and institutions. Biblical counselors document client consent in writing.

Confidentiality

Biblical counselors maintain client confidentiality. Biblical counselors do not promise or guarantee confidentiality among clients in marital, family, partner and group counseling,

but rather explain the problems and limits of keeping confidences in these situations and avoid the role of keeping secrets.

Take Action

Biblical counselors accept the limits of confidentiality when human life is imperiled or abused. Counselors take appropriate action, including necessary disclosures of confidential information to protect life in the face of client threats (e.g., suicide, homicide, serious bodily harm to others, or the abuse of children, elders, and dependent persons).

Report

Biblical counselors shall report to child or elder protective services or to any designated agency established for protective services as required by applicable law and regulatory requirements.

Documentation

Biblical counselors maintain appropriate documentation of their counseling activities, adequate for competent recall of prior sessions and the provision of later services by oneself or others. Biblical counselors preserve, store, transfer, and dispose of written records of client communications in a way that protects client confidentiality.

Compassion Not Condemnation

Biblical counselors do not condone behaviors or actions which the Bible condemns, such as abuse, abortion, suicide, sexual sin, addictions, divorce, etc., but work compassionately with those struggling with these issues.

Avoid Sexual Misconduct

Biblical counselors refrain from all forms of sexual misconduct with clients and use wisdom in counseling members of the opposite sex.

Resolve Conflict

Biblical counselors acknowledge that client/counselor conflicts may occur and attempt to resolve all conflicts in a godly manner.

Get Advice

Biblical counselors consult with and/or refer to competent colleagues, supervisors and other resources when their limits of counseling competence or effectiveness are reached, not offering advice beyond their area of expertise, for example legal or medical advice or drug rehabilitation.

Know Your Limits

Biblical counselors do not make decisions for their clients. Biblical counselors do not counsel or advise against professional counseling, medical or psychiatric treatment, the use of medications, legal counsel, or other forms of professional service merely because they believe such practice is wrong or because the provider may not have a Christian orientation.

Ending Sessions

Discussion and action toward counseling termination or referral is indicated when:

- (1) counseling goals have been achieved
- (2) the client no longer wants or does not return to counseling
- (3) there is a consistent failure to follow the counsel given
- (4) the client asks for a referral

STATEMENT OF FAITH



1. We believe that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is the infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe that all Scripture is centered in and about the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these three are one God.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death and burial, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His future personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that man was originally created in the image and likeness of God. Man fell into sin and is therefore spiritually dead. We believe sin has been transmitted to the entire human race.
5. We believe that man's redemption has been accomplished entirely by the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work. We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in Jesus Christ and the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that through faith in Jesus Christ one passes immediately out of spiritual death into spiritual life and is accepted as God's child and sealed in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.
6. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers and is the source of power to worship, to serve, and to live a godly life.
7. We believe that we are called to walk after the Spirit. We believe that such a walk is energized by the Holy Spirit through a diversity of enabling gifts for service.
8. We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has commissioned believers to make Jesus Christ and His life known to the world.