



Covenant for Counseling with IBL

Helping Leaders Move Towards God's Desires

Counseling with IBL

Driven by Our Mission

Consistent with our Vision—and with a purpose of giving God glory—our mission is to “strengthen leaders with the essentials of ministry leadership” found in God’s Word. This mission drives all of our ministries, including the counseling we perform with individuals and couples.

Word-Centered

We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. Our counseling is therefore centered on teaching and applying practical scriptural precepts and principles. We do not utilize principles of secular psychology or psychiatry in our counseling. Our counselors are neither trained nor licensed as psychotherapists or mental health professionals, nor do they follow the methods of such specialists. We use the Word of God as our source book for all the counseling we provide.

Leader-Focused

Our counselees are men and women in positions of spiritual leadership: pastors, pastoral couples, pastoral leadership teams, volunteer leaders in churches, missionaries, missionary couples, missionary teams, and leaders in para-church ministries. We serve individual leaders and leadership couples in a “coming alongside” manner: we serve at their side as they seek to be led by the Holy Spirit to address the personal struggles that are hindering them from fulfilling their callings. We endeavor to help leaders embrace the practices which will lead to enduring victory over hindrances and sinful patterns of behavior.

EML-Framed

IBL’s leadership model, Essential Ministry Leadership (EML), is designed to encapsulate the biblical essentials that every spiritual leader needs to integrate into his/her life and ministry. As such, the principles and resources comprising EML form a key element of IBL’s counseling ministry.

Collaborating with Other Professionals

If a counselee has significant legal, financial, medical, or other needs requiring professional assistance, we encourage him/her to seek advice from independent professionals. As biblical counselors we are happy to cooperate with such advisors and to help the counselee consider the professional counsel in light of relevant scriptural principles.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process. We carefully guard the information you entrust to us. There are four situations, however, when it is necessary to share certain information with others:

- When the counselor feels that the counselee will be best served by seeking the advice of another IBL team member. This is only done when the counselee concurs with this step.
- When counseling is required by the counselee's authority figure, we will utilize a reporting mechanism agreed upon by the counselee and authority figure prior to the start of counseling.
- When there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless others intervene.
- When the counselor is required by law to notify the relevant authorities regarding child abuse or other illegal activity.

No-Fee Service

Counseling is performed without fee to the counselee. However, we do ask counsees to prayerfully consider providing a gift to the ministry to help defray the costs we incur in serving them. At the conclusion of the In-residence Phase of our counseling process, we provide counsees (and the authority figure when counseling is required) with a summary of the costs incurred in ministering with them. Nevertheless, our ministry to counsees is not dependent on their ability or willingness to provide a gift to the ministry.

Resolution of Conflicts

In our more than twenty years of counseling we have never experienced conflict with any of our counsees. Nevertheless, we recognize that such a situation could occur. In order to ensure that such a situation is resolved in a biblically faithful manner, counsees agree that any dispute arising with an IBL counselor as a result of the counseling process will be settled by a Christian mediation process established at IBL's discretion.

A Covenant for Godliness

We the undersigned have read and understand the IBL counseling framework described above. We make a commitment before God and one another to faithfully and enthusiastically conduct ourselves according to this framework. We further commit to fully apply ourselves to all three phases of the counseling process: Pre-work Preparation, In-residence Counsel, and Follow-up Counseling & Accountability.

As Counselor(s)...

- We commit to base our counsel solely on the principles of God's Word. (2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12)
- We commit to humbly serve the counselee(s) through our counsel, viewing them as more important than ourselves. (Philippians 2:3-4)
- We commit to bathe in prayer the counselee(s) during all three phases of counseling. (Philippians 4: 6-7)
- We commit to faithfully prepare for all times of counsel. (Colossians 3:17)

