



Biblical Counseling **Pre-Marital Counseling Application**

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 and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

We're glad that you're taking this important step to seek godly counsel. Marriage was God's idea and all His gifts are good! We're excited to walk alongside you during this season of your lives! Our prayer is that we will be able to help you discern the Lord's leading in your relationship with Him first of all, and then to clearly understand His leading in your relationship with each other. Since you are considering one of the most important decisions of your life, we take our role of helping you seriously, and we would be glad to do this counseling even before your engagement. This is an excellent time to have others come alongside you to see if the relationship should progress towards engagement and then a life-long commitment of marriage. Once engaged, delaying or halting a marriage is a painful experience for all involved. This form is helpful for us to start getting to know you, as well as to communicate these first important points which explain some of our perspectives and convictions which we believe are honoring to God and the best way we can truly be of help to you. We encourage you to be completely open and surrendered to the Lord's wisdom and leading in your life.

Biblical Basis- 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 solely on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry. *In order to support this conviction, we ask that all of those we counsel to be regular attendees to our Sunday morning worship services.* Other vital components to your growth will be assigned during the course of counseling. We will be ready to help each step of the way.

Not Professional Advice- Although some of the pastoral or lay counselors of this church may be licensed in other fields, such as medicine or psychology, they do not practice as professional doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists in their role as Grace Fellowship Biblical Counselors. In this role, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do when they are hired in their professional capacities. Therefore, if you have significant legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from independent professionals not associated with Grace Fellowship Church. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant biblical principles. By signing this "Consent to Biblical Counseling" you agree to hold Grace Fellowship Church harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

Confidentiality- Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. However, because we are continually training others to be effective counselors we ask that you agree to allow *the possibility of* counselors in training to be present during your sessions. So as to bring as much understanding and grace to your counseling, your counselor and Small Group Leader will be discussing your progress of growing and changing to be more like Christ. Also, there are four other situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: (1) 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; (2) when the counselor sees an opportunity to involve appropriate staff in additional care for others involved; (3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless we otherwise intervene; or (4) 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.

Resolution of Conflicts- On rare occasions a conflict may arise between 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.

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 a pastor or elder. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

This form must be completed in full before the counselor is assigned. We will do our best to assign a counselor to you within 2 weeks.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone (Home): _____

(Cell): _____ (Work): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

Sex: M _____ F _____ Birthdate: _____ Age: _____

Referred here by: _____

Name of Prospective Spouse: _____

HEALTH INFORMATION

Rate your health (check): Very Good _____ Good _____ Average _____ Declining _____ Other _____

Weight changes recently (+/—): _____

List all important present or past illnesses, injuries or handicaps: _____

Are you presently taking any medication: Yes _____ No _____ If so, what? _____

Have you ever used drugs other than for medical purposes? Yes _____ No _____ If so, please explain: _____

Have you ever been arrested? Yes _____ No _____ If so, please explain: _____

Are you willing to sign a release or information form so that your counselor may write for social, psychiatric, or medical reports? Yes _____ No _____

Have you recently suffered the loss of someone who was close to you? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when? _____

Please explain: _____

EDUCATION

Education (last grade or degree that you have completed) _____

Other training (list type and years, including degrees) _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

How many siblings do you have? _____ Which number are you? _____

Are your parents currently married? Yes _____ No _____ Remarried? _____

Have you ever been previously married? Yes _____ No _____ If so, when? _____

Give brief information about any previous marriages: _____

Do you have any children?

Name	Age	Gender	From a Previous marriage?

RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND

Are you a member of a church? _____

Church currently attending: _____

How often do you attend per month? (circle) 0 1 2 3 4

Which Small Group do you participate in? _____

What church did you attend as a child? _____

Religious background of potential spouse: _____

Do you consider yourself a religious person? Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

Do you believe in God? Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

Do you believe Satan exists? Yes _____ No _____ Uncertain _____

Have you ever "dabbled" with the "Occult" (Séances, devil worship, witchcraft, etc.)? Yes _____ No _____

Do you pray to God? Yes _____ No _____ Never _____ Occasionally _____ Often _____

Would you say you are a Christian? Yes _____ No _____

or would you say you are still in the process of becoming Christian? Yes _____ No _____

How often do you read the Bible? Never _____ Occasionally _____ Often _____

Do you have regular devotions? Yes _____ No _____ Not sure what you mean _____

Explain recent changes in your religious life, if any: _____

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN YOUR POTENTIAL SPOUSE?
2. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP?
3. HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONFLICT IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP? HOW DID YOU RESOLVE IT?
4. WHAT HAVE YOUR PAST DATING RELATIONSHIPS BEEN LIKE?
5. DESCRIBE YOUR PARENT'S RELATIONSHIP...

6. DESCRIBE A MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP THAT YOU REALLY RESPECT AND WANT TO EMULATE:

7. WHAT PART DOES GOD HAVE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP? WHAT DO YOU THINK HE EXPECTS FROM YOU?

8. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM ENGAGEMENT COUNSELING?

9. WHAT CHALLENGES DO YOU SEE FOR YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE TO GROW?

10. IS THERE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT WE SHOULD KNOW?