



"And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another." Rom.15:14

Our firm belief is that God has granted us in the Scriptures "everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him who called us" (2 Peter 1:3, cf. John 17:17, Ps 19:7-11, 2 Tim 3:16-17). Thus the Scriptures are the Christian's sufficient source for understanding and responding to life's problems. Our desire is to providing Biblical Counseling to the members of our church in such a way that we may "present every man complete in Christ" (Col.1:28). We understand that counseling from the truths contained in Scripture is part of the "making disciples" mandate Christ gave His church (Matt. 28:19-20). Therefore, our counseling relies on biblical teachings and principles applied with "all wisdom" through the Holy Spirit to each situation we counsel. We are committed to asking the question, "What does Scripture say regarding this matter?" and to counseling in the light of the response to this question.

We believe that Christ through His Holy Spirit and His Word has equipped His body, the church, to provide wisdom, knowledge and instruction to one another (Rom.15:14, 1 Thess 5:14) in order for each member to live a godly and holy life, pleasing God in all ways. Christ has also equipped His church with spiritually mature leaders who are able to shepherd, lead, teach, and counsel others in the church (Eph 4:11-12; 1 Peter 5:1-3). The essential training and practice for those who counsel at The Bible Church of Owasso ("BCO") centers around their ability to apply Scripture to the situation they are counseling. For this reason, they do not present themselves as psychotherapists nor mental health professionals, but as Biblical counselors.

In order to avoid misunderstandings regarding the role of leaders in the church that provide "spiritual counsel" these clarifications should be kept in mind.

- God calls the leaders in His church to set an example in "speech, in life, in love, and in faith and purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). If any leader should not live up to this standard in any counseling situation, the counselee needs to report to the elders any conduct that fails to meet this standard.

- In certain circumstances the leaders may use other gifted and equipped members of the Body to provide biblical counseling to meet the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- Confidentiality is an important factor in establishing the relationship in which spiritual counsel is received. The leader providing spiritual counsel will keep confidentiality following biblical principles. We will expand confidentiality, as needed, to those specific individuals necessary to bring help in resolving the matter at hand. Examples include:
 - o when the person who disclosed the information, or any other person, is in imminent danger of serious harm unless others intervene (Prov. 24:11-12);
 - o when a person refuses to repent of sin and it becomes necessary to promote repentance through accountability and redemptive church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20);
 - o when leaders are required by law to report suspected abuse (Rom. 13:1).

Our desire is to provide wise, spiritual, godly counsel to each person who seeks such counsel from BCO. By sharing these guidelines, we are confident that the Biblical counseling offered at BCO will help many become mature in Christ.