

Our discipleship exists to glorify God in and through the lives of its helpers and those that come for help. Our mission is to provide a unique, dynamic, bible-based discipleship service that God can use to transform lives. Though the approach is not new, the unique methods used have been proven repeatedly to be effective. Our team presses on toward showing people how to be set free from enslaving mental and emotional conflicts through scriptural teachings and consultations.

People come to us primarily through word-of-mouth. God working through this ministry accomplishes the significant changes in the lives of those that come for help. Our biblical disciplers/counselors are trained in the application of scriptural truth to daily living and do not necessarily hold degrees in secular psychology or are licensed professionals. We do not take the position that all problems are “spiritual” but do believe that most “presenting problems” have a basic spiritual factor.

You have come for Biblical counseling/discipleship and we do not consider that we have the “right” to minister to you unless you give us that right. Please read the following statements and sign this form stating you accept the condition of ministry:

1. AREAS OF LIFE

We see biblical counseling affecting seven areas of life: SPIRITUAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, FINANCIAL, MARITAL and PARENTAL. Personal problems often overlap several of these areas. Therefore, we ask your permission to go into any or all of these areas to the degree necessary to come to a solution of the problem.

2. DIRECTIVE COUNSELING

While careful listening and empathy are a definite part of the ministry process, our Biblical counsel is direct in nature. The style and approach to assisting needy people is straightforward and direct. Our goal is not to offend but to use the strength of the Word to address the “issues” at large. This means that definite direction and assignments are given are based on the teachings and principles of Scriptures.

3. CREDENTIALS

The word “counseling” is often associated with the ideas of “licensed” counselors. We do not take the stand that “ministers of the gospel” must be certified with a state agency to be qualified to administer counsel to the hurting. It should be understood that our ministry may or may not use “certified” counselors/ministers to assist you.

4. NO DECISIONS

No decisions will be made for you. You are the one(s) who will decide what you will do with the teaching given to you. However, if there is persistence in ignoring the instruction given or a refusal to complete assignments, the question may be raised as to the advisability to continuing the Biblical counseling process.

5. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

We do not charge for servicing you with the gospel. We do have a suggested rate of donation based upon a per ½ time slot (see application form). IOM America is a 501c3 non-profit and they would be honored to receive gifts and donations to assist us in accomplishing our mission.

6. TIME FACTOR

Each session lasts from 60 to 90 minutes. We do not have a definite minimum or maximum number of sessions required, but we will not keep you coming beyond a reasonable time. If outside help is needed in areas where other services have special expertise, referrals will be made.

7. APPARENT REGRESSION

It frequently happens (though not always) that as a person begins to follow Biblical principles, the life experience may actually get worse. This is no reason to quit or think that you are not making progress. On the contrary, it may be an indication that you ARE making progress. When a person's life situation is unmanageable, there usually is the need for unlearning and undoing certain things, so that progress can be made in a new direction. We mention this so that you will not be surprised and disheartened.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

We are committed to a rule of confidentiality regarding what is discussed. Certain qualifications, however, apply. Where further insight or guidance is needed, your discipler/counselor may consult with other IOM team members. Secondly, where a crime has been or is being committed, particularly against a minor, it is required by law to report such activity. Further, knowledge of a threatened act of violence against someone also may be reported. Finally, when a counselor is ministering to multiple family members, there typically is an "overlapping" of counseling data that is exchanged.

When conducting "group counseling," it is difficult to manage the personal data exchange. Your discipler is committed to encourage all group participants to keep the spoken data within the confines of the group. It needs to be understood that your discipler cannot be responsible for "gossip" within family or group members.

9. MUTUAL TERMINATION

We ask that you seriously consider the teaching given, and that if you decide not to continue your counseling, that you follow the guidelines contained within the scriptures and share your concerns with your counselor. First, share your concerns one-on-one before terminating or bring a third party into the process. These guidelines are set in place in order to resolve conflicts according to Biblical guidelines. It is your discipler's desire for you to receive help even if you choose not to use our services.

IF YOU GIVE YOUR DISCIPLER THE RIGHT TO COUNSEL/MINISTER TO YOU ACCORDING TO THIS OUTLINE, we believe you to be saying:

I understand and agree to all the above criteria and accept freely the services my discipler/counselor offers. By my signature, I am stating approval to the process that we endeavor to undertake together.

Printed Name

Client Signature

Date

Printed Name

Counselor/Discipler

Date