



## **ROCKY BAYOU BAPTIST COUNSELING MINISTRY**

**2401 Partin Dr. N, Niceville Florida, 32578**

**(850) 678-6062**

Are You Interested in Biblical Counseling at Rocky Bayou Baptist Church? If you are, we encourage you to please read the following statement and then sign at the designated place at the end of this document.

We believe the claim of Scripture in its promises, precepts, principles, and wisdom to be an all-sufficient resource for matters of life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4). We believe that the means for change is through God's enabling grace mediated through the Scriptures, the ordinances, God's people, creation and providence.

The resource of God's people is vital to godly change. The Scriptures teach that a local body of believers has a responsibility to come along side those who are struggling with sinful issues in their lives (Gal 6:15). No one is alone in their struggle with sin. God has equipped each body with those who have the gifts necessary to help those who are struggling, as well as given the directive to one-another each other. To deprive the body of the opportunity for ministry to each other will deprive the person struggling of a powerful resource for change in his life, as well as deprive those who have the ability to help of an opportunity to be used of God in the life of another.

Elders and laypersons that are competent to counsel are available for consultation. We also have a female counselor at Rocky Bayou Baptist available to take a limited number of counseling cases that has extensive training and experience in biblical counseling. She holds a graduate degree in biblical counseling from The Master's University, an accredited college and graduate school. She is also certified with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC).

If you seek counseling from Rocky Bayou Baptist, we want you to know that **all counseling will be conducted in accordance with the counselor's understanding of the Scriptures**. Your counseling will be **biblical** meaning that the Scriptures will be the authority in all cases. If you are not sure that you will be interested in biblically-based counseling, you may first attend one or two sessions to discover what biblical counseling is like. If you are unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority and are unwilling to do the homework assigned, sessions will be terminated.

**If you are attending a church other than Rocky Bayou Baptist, we encourage you to invite the pastor from your local church or someone in its leadership to accompany you to the counseling sessions. For women who are being counseled by our female counselor, the accountability partner should be another woman.** We recognize and respect the authority and the discipline of your church. This will also make the transfer back to the pastoral care of your church much easier to effect. If you are not attending a church or if your church is not structured to provide the kind of counseling received at Rocky Bayou Baptist, we will expect you to attend Rocky Bayou Baptist on a weekly basis. Our experience has been that for changes in people to be lasting, people need more than the help they receive in formal counseling. They need the total ministry of a church in which the preaching, teaching and fellowship are providing the same kind of help that is given in the counseling sessions.

Absolute confidentiality is not scriptural. In certain circumstances the Bible requires that facts be disclosed to selected others (Matt. 18:15ff). If your church leadership should inquire, we will disclose to them only that information which we believe is necessary for them to effectively and biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you. If you have a problem with this procedure, please discuss your concerns and reasons for those concerns with your counselor.

At any time during the counseling, for reasons sufficient to himself/herself, the counselor -- as also the counselee -- shall have **the option of terminating** counseling.

Rocky Bayou Baptist does not charge a specific fee for counseling. However, since there are costs involved in maintaining this ministry, counselees may want to express their thanks and help maintain the ministry in a tangible way. Donations should be made to Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, not to the counselor. Also, part of the weekly homework assignments may require purchasing materials that relate to the counseling being done. Counselees are expected to pay for this material.

It should be understood that biblical counseling will involve giving scriptural teaching and making practical application of the same to each individual. **The counselee is held fully responsible for how he implements that counsel.**

Here at Rocky Bayou Baptist we not only do counseling, but are devoted to training biblical counselors. This means that the counselor may have one to two people assisting him/her in each counseling session.

We are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). There are no problems between persons or in persons that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific principles. Our counselors are not infallible, nor do they pretend to know all there is to know about biblical teaching and its applications to life, but they are well equipped and competent to help people change. They will make a point to differentiate between God's commands and their suggestions. Counselors will also honestly tell you if they are stymied and will seek help. (Please note that we do not give medical or legal advice).

If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, both parties must agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system. Conciliation will be sought under submission to and direction of the elders of Rocky Bayou Baptist Church.

If you are willing to enter into the kind of counseling described in this statement, please sign below as indicated and bring this signed form with you to your first counseling session.

I have read the conditions for counseling set forth in this Brochure and agree to enter into counseling in accordance with them:

Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_