



2 TIMOTHY 3:16

"ALL SCRIPTURE IS BREATHED OUT BY GOD AND PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS..."

If you would like to access IRBC's full declaration concerning the authority of Scripture, use the QR code below.



The Sufficiency of Scripture

"WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THE TRUTH REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE IS ENTIRELY SUFFICIENT TO MEANINGFULLY AND RELEVANTLY ADDRESS AND FULFILL EVERY PERSON'S SPIRITUAL NEEDS IN EVERY SITUATION, IN EVERY PERIOD OF TIME."

This statement from our training manual is representative of the conviction that any true biblical counselor has within his/her heart: THE BIBLE IS SUFFICIENT! Such a conviction is important in a day when many churches and Christian counseling centers are undiscerningly importing worldly philosophies into their pulpits and counseling ministries. These worldly philosophies are often nicely decorated with Christian terminology, but at their core they directly contradict the Word of God. Such antithetical philosophies can ultimately do only one thing when preached or taught: DAMAGE SOULS. Due to the proliferation of false teachers and their contra-Scriptural teachings, we must be careful to heed the exhortation given in 1 John 4:1: "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

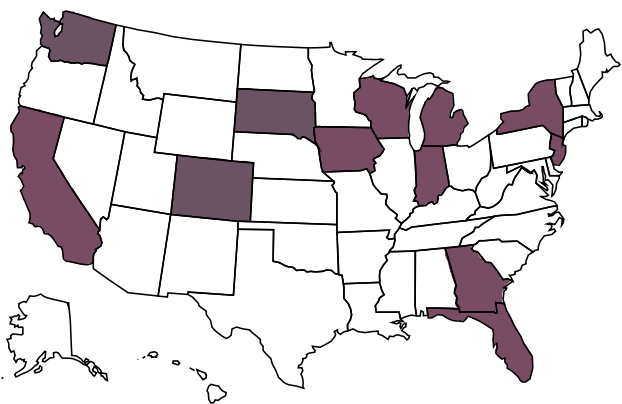
Whether it is from the pulpit, from the counseling table, from family members, friends, or people on the internet, we must all be very careful when it comes to submitting our souls to various teachings and teachers. We especially need to be careful to protect our brothers and sisters in their times of weakness, for at such times they can be more vulnerable to be carried away by false teachings that will spiritually cripple them. For these and

other reasons, there is a great need for trained biblical counselors and solid biblical counseling centers. Please be in prayer for the 100+ students in six states who are currently taking our *Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling*, along with the ten students currently receiving advanced training towards counseling certification. Pray also for the counselors at all of the *Shepherd's Way Biblical Counseling Centers*, and for all of our supervising counselors who are mentoring new counselors. Finally, please pray that the LORD will bless the efforts being made to establish new centers in Kalamazoo, Michigan and in Lynden, Washington.

We are so thankful to the LORD for the success He has granted in fulfilling objectives associated with our passion and purpose this year, as well as in the years past. God raised up 550+ students to complete our *Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling* between 2012 and 2023, and He has raised up 100+ new students who are currently taking the class.

650+ Students

The LORD has also allowed the class to be offered in twelve different states across the US, and last year it was offered in two locations in the Philippines (see pictures to the right). Discussion to host the class next year in two countries outside the US is underway, with additional inquiries about the class coming from other international locations as well. Please pray that the LORD will guide the IRBC board and administration as they seek to discern where classes will be offered next year.



Donate online
reformedbiblicalcounseling.org



IRBC'S PASSION

Bringing the light of God's Word from a reformed perspective to all people via the venue of biblical counseling



IRBC'S PURPOSE

To provide reformed biblical counseling training and assistance in establishing cooperative reformed biblical counseling centers across the United States of America



Your Help Is Needed!

We thank God for supplying IRBC's financial needs via congregational support and individual giving throughout its years of serving the reformed community. Your help is needed in connection with fulfilling goals that have been established by the board to rollout helpful, new material and internet-based services for office-bearers and counselors, as well as to establish new counseling centers.

Please consider making a financial contribution. Donations can be made online or by writing a check to Cornerstone URC and placing "IRBC" in the memo line.

IRBC Board Piloting New Class Format

The IRBC board recently decided to pilot a new class format that would involve having future students of the *IRBC Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling* watch the majority of the counseling lectures on their own. The students would meet together once per month throughout the duration of the course to discuss the lectures they independently watched. This new format would hopefully allow more students to take the course, as many have been inhibited from

registering due to the requirement of meeting weekly for class sessions. We thank IRBC Supervising Counselor, Nick Kellogg, and the Kalamazoo counseling class for their willingness to assist the board in this piloting project.



Social Media: A Blessing or a Curse?

TAMING THE FINGERS

Heavenly Wisdom for Social Media



JEFF JOHNSON

FOREWORD BY TIM CHALLIES

Jeff Johnson is a pastor of one of IRBC's partnering congregations, and is an IRBC supervising counselor.

While social media has many benefits, it can also cause many problems if it is abused or misused. This point is emphasized in one of the lectures provided in the *IRBC Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling*. One of the problems that comes to expression around the counseling table is the divisiveness and hostility that social media can cause. People are often more willing to type comments or make posts using words they would never say to someone's face. With wisdom from Proverbs, Jeff Johnson offers five practical questions that can help us cultivate wisdom in our use of social media in his book, *Taming the Fingers: Heavenly Wisdom for Social Media*:

AM I CONTROLLED?

AM I CALM?

AM I CAREFUL?

AM I COMPASSIONATE?

AM I CONSCIENTIOUS?

IRBC's Partnership with 3 Confessional Conservative Reformed Seminaries

IRBC has been blessed with the privilege of partnering with three seminaries. The Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary (PRTS) of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Covenant Baptist Theological Seminary (CBTS) of Owensboro, Kentucky, utilize our certification program. The Mid-America Reformed Seminary (MARS) of Dyer, Indiana, partners with us in offering to their seminarians our *Basic Training Course in Reformed Biblical Counseling*. Our course has also been offered on the campus of PRTS.

The Institute for Reformed Biblical Counseling is an inter-denominational organization that functions under the oversight of the Cornerstone URC of Hudsonville, MI. IRBC is committed to the historic reformed confessions because they are time-tested, faithful summaries of the doctrines of Scripture. IRBC is also committed to train students to counsel in the light of God's truth from a reformed perspective and in a comprehensive manner.

"The Blessing of Pursuing Peace" Conference March 22-23, 2024

EXPLORE WAYS TO PROMOTE HARMONY IN
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOLVE CONFLICT GOD'S WAY

The Shepherd's Way Biblical Counseling Center (tSw GR Central) of Bethany URC in Wyoming, Michigan, is offering a conference in March 2024. The keynote speaker for this upcoming conference is Scott O'Malley. Scott is the executive director of *Twelve Stones*, an intensive counseling retreat center in Morgantown, Indiana. He has a Masters in Biblical Counseling from the Master's University. Scott has been with *Twelve Stones* since 2007, where he counsels in many areas including peacemaking in marriages, parent and family counseling, and ministry leader care. At the conference he will be speaking about "Walking in Wisdom Through Conflict (James 3:13-4:12)" and "The Importance of Humility in Peacemakers (Philippians 2:11)." All are encouraged to attend!



Scott O'Malley



Dr. Mark
Kelderman



Rev. Paul
Ipema



Prof. Barry
Gritters



Rev. Garry
Eriks



Rev. Eric Van
Der Molen



Rev. Matthew
Nuiver



Meribeth
Scheirbeek

PRE-CONFERENCE (FRIDAY 11AM-6:45PM) SESSIONS

Keeping the Gospel Central in Personal Ministry -
Scott O'Malley

Biblical Peacemaking in Personal Ministry - Scott O'Malley

MAIN CONFERENCE (FRIDAY 6:45PM-9:30PM & SATURDAY 8:50AM-12PM) BREAKOUT SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

Mediating Conflict - Scott O'Malley

The Use and Abuse of Matthew 18 - Professor Barry Gritters

Repentance, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation -
Rev. Paul Ipema

Communication in Conflict - Rev. Garry Eriks

Conflict in the Life of the Apostle Paul -
Rev. Eric Van Der Molen

A Heart of Peace (Youth Only) - Rev. Matt Nuiver

King Saul and David: Navigating Conflict with Authority -
Dr. Mark Kelderman

Boundaries with the LORD - Meribeth Schierbeek

A Life of Peace (Youth Only) - Rev. Matt Nuiver



Registration is required for this event:

High School Students - FREE (through March 8, 2024)

Early Bird Registration - \$25/Person

Registration After Jan. 1, 2024 - \$50/Person

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