GRACE COUNSELING CENTER

*Hope from God through the Bible*

152 W Prairie Avenue ~ Coeur d’Alene ID 83815 ~ 208-635-5338

Dear Friend,

We are glad that you have contacted us for help with the issues you are facing in your life right now. We understand that there are times when you just need a helping hand. You might be doing very well in some parts of your life while struggling in others. Now might be the time when you need someone to come alongside to *encourage and guide you from the Bible*.

The next three pages in this packet are very important. Please read everything carefully and complete all the information honestly and completely. The first page is information for you; the next two pages give us information about you and your concern.

**What kinds of problems can we help with?**

* People struggling in their marriage relationships
* Parents who need help with their children, or the other way around
* People struggling with financial problems: debt, financial planning, budgeting, etc.
* People who have emotional trouble: depression, anger, bitterness, grief, etc.
* People trying to find purpose in life
* People dealing with sexual sin
* People with other kinds of problems like addictions, self-harm, worry, etc.
* *In all cases, we use the Bible, God’s sufficient book, to answer the problems of life.*

**What can you expect from Grace Counseling?**

* ***Encouragement*** - Each of our staff will encourage you to succeed and appeal to you to follow Jesus with your whole heart.
* ***Respect*** - Each of our staff will care for you, pray for you, and treat you respectfully.
* ***Privacy*** - Our counselors will keep your information in strict confidence except where the counselor believes it is necessary to get others involved (see confidentiality on next page).

**What does Grace Counseling expect from you?**

* ***Be honest*** - It is usually impossible for us to provide real help if you are not honest with us. You will not be belittled or judged – we are here to *help!*
* ***Do your homework*** - During most counseling sessions, you will be given projects that will help you to grow and change in permanent ways.
* ***Give us some time*** - Your problems did not develop overnight; true and lasting change will usually take several weeks. We meet with most people for up to 15 weekly sessions.

***Please Note: Counselors set appointments when they have time available.***

***We will do our best to accommodate your schedule.***

Information You Need

**What kind of counseling will I receive at Grace Counseling Center?**

* GCC counselors at GCC are trained in biblical counseling. They are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness. There are no problems that the Bible does not address either in general or specific.
* GCC counseling will be based upon Christian principles as found in the Bible, rather than the principles of psychology or psychiatry. The Bible is the final authority in all cases.
* **GCC counselors are not authorized to give medical or legal advice.**
* **GCC counselors are not certified within this State as “licensed” counselors.**

**What does it cost for counseling at Grace Counseling Center?**

There is no charge for counseling sessions provided by Grace Bible Church through Grace Counseling Center. Your counselors are volunteers who give their time without charge. We are glad to take time to show you from the Bible how to resolve relationships and life situations. However, nothing is actually free. Everything costs somebody something. ***We encourage you to carefully consider the following:***

* ***Materials Fee****:* Your first appointment is a consultation. If you decide to continue counseling, we ask you to **bring $25.00 in cash or check to your second appointment**. *This is a Materials Fee.* This fee will be used to provide materials, and small booklets that your counselor will use or recommend for you.
* ***Book Purchases****:* Your counselor will probably suggest that you add a book or two to your home—books that deal directly with the particular issues that you are dealing with in your counseling sessions.
* ***Donations****:* The Counseling Center maintains a Counselor Training Fund. This fund is used to purchase training and/or resources for those who do the counseling at the Center. If you find that the counseling has been helpful to you and you wish to make a donation to this ministry, it will be deposited into that fund. ***Please note that all such donations are at your discretion—they are never required as part of the counseling.***

**Are my counseling sessions kept confidential at Grace Counseling Center?**

Grace Counseling Center is committed to the confidentiality of information shared during counseling as much as possible. However, there are times when it is appropriate to reveal certain information to others. In particular, ***the counselors of this church may disclose confidential information to appropriate people in the following circumstances***:

* Counselors may discuss counseling sessions and cases with the GCC director, other GCC counselors, and/or the pastors/elders of Grace Bible Church of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, but only when it is necessary in order to gain the benefit of additional insight and input;
* If the counselee attends another church *and if the GCC director agrees*, the counselor may also communicate information about counseling sessions and cases with the pastors or elders of that church;
* If the person who disclosed the information or any other person is in imminent danger of serious harm unless others intervene;
* On rare occasions, church discipline may be required to deal with continued sinful behavior. In those cases, the pastors/elders of this church or the counselee’s home church may be advised of the circumstances of the case.
* Under certain circumstances, Idaho law requires a counselor to report suspected child abuse (see Idaho Statutes, Title 16, Chapter 16).

*Counselors will normally provide counselees with written notice of these confidentiality provisions; nevertheless, these provisions shall be in effect regardless of whether such notice is given.*

COUNSELING AGREEMENT

*(Please indicate your understanding of, and agreement to, the following statements by putting your initials in the space to the left of each numbered item.)*

I, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, am voluntarily entering into a counseling relationship with Grace Counseling Center (GCC) and Grace Bible Church. *I have initialed the following statements to show that I have read and agree to them:*

\_\_\_\_\_\_1. The counselors at GCC are trained in biblical counseling and may or may not have other certifications or degrees. **They are not certified within this State as “licensed” counselors.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_2. **GCC counselors are not authorized to give medical or legal advice.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_3. The counselors at GCC are confident that the Bible has all of the information necessary for life and godliness. There are no problems that the Bible fails to address either in general or specific.

\_\_\_\_\_\_4. Counseling I receive at GCC will be based upon Christian principles as found in the Bible, rather than the principles of psychology or psychiatry. The Bible is the final authority in all cases. **If I am unwilling to use the Bible as the final authority in counseling, I should seek counseling elsewhere.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_5. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_\_6. I understand that all counseling is done free of charge as a ministry of GCC. Counselors provide their time as an act of Christian ministry. **While the counseling is free, I understand that there is a $25.00 materials fee payable in cash or check at the second session.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_7. I understand that my counselor has agreed to meet with me for a maximum of 15 weeks. **No counseling will be scheduled longer than 15 weeks without the Director’s approval.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_8. I understand that I may be asked to purchase books or materials beneficial to the counseling.

\_\_\_\_\_\_9. I understand that the faithful completion of any homework assigned is necessary to the effectiveness of counsel. Counselors will be sensitive to my personal time and abilities in giving such assignments. **If I am unwilling to do the homework assigned, I understand sessions will be ended.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_10. I agree to be fully responsible for how I implement the counsel I receive.

\_\_\_\_\_­\_11. If a conflict should arise between the counselee and the counselor, I agree to resolve the dispute outside the secular court system. Conciliation will be sought under submission to and direction of the elders of Grace Bible Church.

\_\_\_\_\_\_12. I have read GCC’s confidentiality code. I agree to abide by its terms.

\_\_\_\_\_\_13. Because Grace Counseling Center also trains new counselors, there may at times be observers sitting in on the counseling sessions (with full commitment to confidentiality).

Unless I specifically refuse, my counselor may invite others to observe our sessions.

\_\_\_\_\_\_14. ***On the basis that I have read, agreed to, and initialed each paragraph, I agree to the above terms, including, but not limited to, homework projects, observers in the sessions, waiver of lawsuit in the civil court systems, and resolution of disputes through conciliation. I agree not to hold the individual Grace Counseling Center counselors, Grace Bible Church, or its leadership financially or legally responsible for the results of the counsel provided or for any decisions I make based on that counsel.***

Signed Counselor

Printed Name Printed Name

Dated\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ Dated\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Request for Counseling

**(Please answer the following questions carefully)**

Your Name Your Gender Your Age Today’s Date

Your Address City State Zip

Your Phone (Do you text? 🗌) Your E-mail

In case of emergency, please contact (name & number):

Referred here by:

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY:**

Marital Status: (Circle all that apply) **▪Single ▪Dating ▪Engaged ▪Married ▪Separated ▪Divorced ▪Widowed**

Spouse’s Name: Spouse’s Age:

Spouse’s Occupation: Spouse’s Phone: ( \_ )

Is your spouse willing to come for counseling? **▪Yes ▪No ▪Uncertain**

Date of your current marriage: Your ages when married: Husband Wife

How long did you know your current spouse before marriage?

How long did you date/court your current spouse?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How long were you engaged?

Have you and your current spouse ever been separated? **▪Yes ▪No** When? From\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to

Have either of you had a marriage before this one? Myself**: ▪Yes ▪No** Spouse**: ▪Yes ▪No**

Have you yourself ever filed for divorce from a spouse? **▪Yes ▪No** When?

**CHILDREN:**  Living Education Marital

PM\* Name Age Sex with you? (in years) Status

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*\*Check this column if child is by previous marriage/relationship*  Check here if more than 5 children

**CHURCH:**

Do you attend church? **▪Yes ▪No** Which? Are you a member? **▪Yes ▪No**

Number of church meetings you attend each month: (Circle) **0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 More**

Does your pastor know you are seeking counsel here? **▪Yes ▪No** Is there a reason you would rather not

talk to him?

**EDUCATION & CAREER:**

Your Employer: Your Business Phone: ( )

Your Position: How Long?

Your Education: **▪GED ▪H.S. ▪College ▪Grad School** Degree(s)/Certification(s):

***(Please answer the following questions with 2-3 sentences each)***

1. DESCRIBE THE PROBLEM THAT HAS ENCOURAGED YOU TO SEEK COUNSELING.

**Which of these areas need to be addressed in counseling?**

Abuse Addictions Anger Anxiety Apathy Appetite

Bitterness Children Communication Conflict (Fights) Deception Decisions

Depression Envy Fear Finances Food Issues Grief

Guilt Health Gender Identity Impotence In-Laws Lifestyle Changes Loneliness Lust Memory Moodiness Perfectionism

Rebellion Sex Sleep Vices Other

1. WHAT ATTEMPTS HAVE YOU ALREADY MADE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM?
2. WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THIS COUNSELING?
3. WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE LED TO YOUR COMING HERE RIGHT NOW?
4. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

Circle **ALL** times you are available: **Mondays** – AM AFT EVE / **Tuesday** – AM AFT EVE / **Wednesdays** – AM AFT EVE

**Thursdays** – AM AFT EVE / **Fridays** – AM AFT EVE / **Saturdays** – AM AFT EVE

**Please return to Grace Counseling Office in one of the following ways: Scan and email (**[**gbcprairie@gmail.com)**](mailto:gbcprairie@gmail.com))**;**

**Drop off or Snail mail to: Grace Counseling Center, 152 W Prairie Ave., Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815**