

Pastor's Counseling Policy

My philosophy and policy toward pastoral counseling is herein assigned:

1. ***I am not a licensed, professional counselor.*** I am a pastor who will use the **Word of God** as my text, the **Holy Spirit** as my guide, and **Jesus Christ** as my model. I assume that every conflict is the result of a spiritual problem. While this may not always be the case, that will be our starting point. This is ***not licensed counseling***.

2. ***There are no financial fees for pastoral counseling.*** However, it will cost you time, honesty, and hard work. There may be some financial costs for tests I administer, books I require you to read, or materials I distribute; but we will not let the lack of funds stand in the way of this counseling process.

3. ***It is not my practice or purpose to counsel individuals or couples over an extended period of time.*** If you need such counseling, I will refer you to a licensed professional counselor. I will continue to touch base with you and your licensed counselor if you choose and give written permission to do so.

4. ***It is my policy to counsel women alone only one time.*** After this one session, if there is a need for further counseling or discipleship, I will refer you to a woman in our church who will assist you further. If you then want to continue to talk with me, the three of us will do so together. If your husband is willing and available, I will also continue the counseling with you and him present.

5. ***It is also my policy to counsel children with their parents present, if at all possible.*** These sessions may include private talks combined with a time of talking with the parent in the room with us.

6. ***I will give homework assignments after each session, and I will not schedule a following session until the assignment is completed.*** Doing outside assignments is vital to your future spiritual and emotional health. I have read the Pastor's Counseling Policy and agree to adhere to it.

11/1/2025

X Howard Bouldin

Howard D. Bouldin, III

Pastoring Teacher

Signed by: HOWARD BOULDIN