

CONSENT & RELEASE OF LIABILITY
STONEBRIDGE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Our Goal- Our goal in providing biblical counseling is to help you meet the challenges of life in a way that will please and honor the Lord Jesus Christ and allow you to enjoy fully His love for you and His plans for your life.

Biblical Basis- We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life. (II Peter 1:3 and Romans 15:4) Therefore, our counseling is based solely on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry.

Not Professional Advice- The pastoral and lay counselors of this church **DO NOT** practice as professional doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists in their role as Stonebridge Church counselors. In this role, they do not provide the same kind of professional advice and services that they do when they are hired in their professional capacities, whatever those may be. Therefore if you have significant mental health, legal, financial, medical or other technical questions, you should seek advice from independent professionals not associated with Stonebridge Evangelical Free Church. Our pastoral and lay counselors will be happy to cooperate with such advisors and help you to consider their counsel in the light of relevant biblical principles. By signing this “Consent to Biblical Counseling” you agree to hold Stonebridge Church harmless in any and all matters associated with the biblical advice you have received.

Confidentiality- Confidentiality is an important aspect of the counseling process, and we will carefully guard the information you entrust to us. However, because we are continually training others to be effective counselors we ask that you agree to allow counselors in training to be present during your sessions. Leaders of the Counseling Ministry will also look over the notes and other documentation related to your case in order to be sure that the counsel you are receiving is appropriate to your needs. There are four other situations when it may be necessary for us to share certain information with others: (1)When a counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another pastor or elder in this church; (2) when a counselee attends another church and it is necessary to talk with his or her pastor or elders; (3) when there is a clear indication that someone may be harmed unless we otherwise intervene; or (4) when a person persistently refuses to renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the church to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22; 24:11; Matthew 18:15-20). Please be assured that our counselors strongly prefer not to disclose personal information to others, and they will make every effort to help you find ways to resolve a problem as privately as possible.

Please be aware that if communication occurs via email or text message, this methods of communication are not secure and the security of the information contained in these messages cannot be guaranteed by Stonebridge Church. If you elect to receive or send messages to Stonebridge Church or its counselors you knowingly and willing are doing so at your own risk.

Knowing the status of mental and physical health can be an important indicator of emotional and spiritual health and is helpful for the counselor to know so they can help you respond well to any struggles you may be facing. By signing below I understand that I am giving Stonebridge Church permission to be able to contact the physician’s listed below for copies of my records as well as giving permission for the doctor listed below to release that information.

Physician: _____
Phone Number: _____

Physician: _____
Phone Number: _____

Resolution of Conflicts- On rare occasions a conflict may arise between counselor and counselee. In order to make sure that any such conflicts will be resolved in a biblically faithful manner, we require all of our counselees to agree that any dispute that arises with the counselor or with this church as a result of counseling

will be settled with mediation within the church according to the principles of scripture and the authority of this local church.

Having clarified the principles and policies of our counseling ministry, we welcome the opportunity to minister to you in the name of Christ and to be used by Him as He helps you to grow in spiritual maturity and prepares you for usefulness in His body. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please talk with a pastor or elder. If these guidelines are acceptable to you, please sign below.

Release of Liability & Covenant Not to Sue- The undersigned do now remise, release, acquit, satisfy and forever discharge Stonebridge Church and their officers, directors, agents, employees, independent contractors, counselors, volunteers, successors and assigns and other persons or any other party involved in or related to biblical counseling services from all actions, causes of action, suits, damages, judgments, executions, claims and demands whatsoever in law or in equity, which the undersigned may ever had, now have or may have in the future, or which any personal representative, successor, heir or assign of the undersigned in the future can, shall or may have, for any reason or cause whatsoever, including but not limited to any and all claims, causes of action, suits, controversies or demands arising out of or relating in any fashion whatsoever to the undersigned participation in Biblical Counseling or any action pursuant to Biblical Counseling, whether caused by the negligence or otherwise.

The undersigned covenants not to sue or otherwise assert a claim of any nature whatsoever against Stonebridge Evangelical Church its counselors, officers, directors, volunteers, or employees arising out of or in any way related to the undersigned's involvement in biblical counseling.

I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER & RELEASE AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT, ASSURANCE OR GUARANTEE BEING MADE TO ME AND INTEND MY SIGNATURE TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF RELEASEE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

Required Signatures:

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Spouse's Signature: _____

Dated: _____