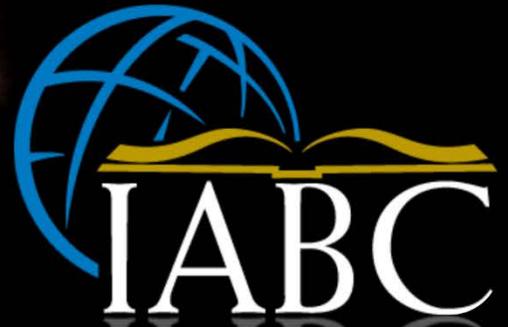


His divine power has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:3



Certification Manual



A *Gentle* Voice for
Biblical Counseling

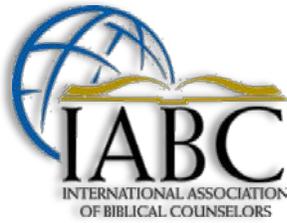
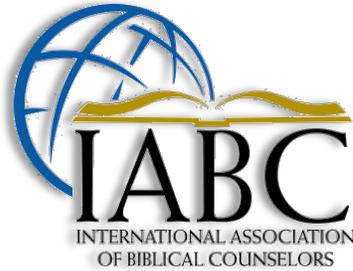


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Dear New Friend,

Thank you for inquiring about the International Association of Biblical Counselors. Enclosed you will find a handbook explaining the certification process. Please read it carefully, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact our **Member Services Office** at our toll-free number: **1-844-THE-IABC (843-4222)**.

We are continually developing our growing organization and we're open to your suggestions. A primary philosophical precept of IABC is that it is impossible to mix psychology with the Bible and remain true to God's Word. We genuinely believe that the Bible provides all of the information necessary for the healing of the heart, soul, mind, and spirit of God's children (2 Peter 1:3) as we allow the Holy Spirit to work.

If you believe that God is just as able to heal the wounded heart in our age as He was when Jesus walked this earth, you will find wonderful fellowship and encouragement in IABC. We hope you will stay in touch with us, visit our website at iabc.net, and join with us at one of our regional conferences throughout the year, or for our IABC International Bible Conference the first week in August in Denver, Colorado.

I encourage you to fill out your certification application today and send it right back so you can grow with us in your counseling ministry. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

President, IABC



Dr. Ed Bulkley
President



Dr. Kevin Hurt
Executive Vice President



IABC PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

COUNSELING GOD'S WAY

"Counseling God's Way" is more than a catchy phrase. It's a commitment to take the Scriptures seriously and to help God's people apply His truth to their personal lives in practical ways.

Counseling God's Way is as different from psychological counseling as light is from darkness. You see, genuine Biblical counseling doesn't merely sprinkle a few Bible verses here and there to make the counseling appear Bible-centered. In contrast to psychologically integrated systems, Biblical counseling seeks to carefully discover those areas in which a Christian may be disobedient to the principles and commands of Scripture and to help him learn how to lovingly submit to God's will.

In contrast to the false stereotypes of Biblical counseling, effective Biblical counselors do not automatically diagnose a counselee's problems as flagrant and willful rebellion and prescribe a couple of verses with the promise of instant healing. On the other hand, a genuine Biblical counselor does not assume that every problem is biologically or "psychologically" caused, requiring years of intensive psychotherapy and psychotropic drugs.

While recognizing that many problems of thinking and behavior are physically caused, Biblical counselors recognize that many physical symptoms are generated by wrong patterns of thinking and action.

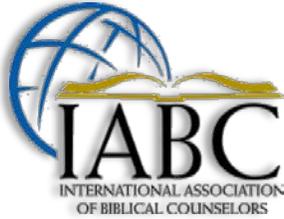
Biblical counselors take Colossians 1:28 seriously, presenting Christ without shame, lovingly confronting sin, and teaching Biblical principles in order to produce maturity in the life of the counselee.

Psychological counseling, on the other hand, is based on "hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ," (Colossians 2:8). That's why Paul warns, "See to it that no one takes you captive" through such empty concepts."

Biblical counselors truly believe that God "has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness," (2 Peter 1:5). If we apply God's principles to our lives and grow in our character qualities, Peter promises "they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive," (vs.8), but if we fail to do so, Peter says we are "nearsighted and blind" forgetting that we have "been cleansed from [our] past sins" (vs.9).

That is what psychological counseling produces: spiritual nearsightedness and blindness and a return to slavery to the very sins from which God has freed us. As a result, "they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning" (2 Peter 2:20).

Counseling God's Way is totally different, because it relies on the wisdom of God, not on the false precepts of humanistic philosophies and theories.



IABC STATEMENT OF FAITH

IABC MEMBERS AND CERTIFIED COUNSELORS ARE ASKED TO AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

1. We believe that the Bible was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and that it was written without error in the original manuscripts. We accept the Bible in its entirety, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as the sufficient and final authority for guiding man to faith in God, and then to walk in victory. (**2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13, 10:11; John 19:35**)
2. We believe that there is one true God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of these Persons possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and thus the characteristics of personality. (**Matthew 18:19; John 10:30; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14**)
3. We believe that God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, is the functional head of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). (**Genesis 1:1, 26; Matthew 6:9; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 1 John 3:1**)
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is God, the living Word, who became fully man without ceasing to be fully God, through His miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died. He ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, as the Advocate of those who trust Him for salvation. (**Matthew 1:16, 20, 23; Luke 1:34; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 15; 1 Peter 2:5-9; 1 John 2:1**) We believe that Jesus Christ will come again to the earth, personally, visibly, and bodily to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (**Acts 1:10-11; John 14:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 22:20**)
5. We believe that God the Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to mankind. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ. From the moment of spiritual birth, He imparts new life to them, and seals them until the day of redemption (**Ephesians 1: 13-14**). He is the source and power for all acceptable worship and imparts a diversity of enabling gifts for service. He enlightens us to understand the infallible Word and seeks to occupy us with Christ alone. (**Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:18; Titus 3:5**)
6. We believe that man was originally created in the image of God and that man sinned by disobeying God and thus was alienated from his Father/Creator. Fallen man's nature is corrupted and he is thus totally unable to please God. He is in need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Man cannot see nor enter the Kingdom of God until He is born again. (**Genesis 1:26-27; John 3:3, 6-7; Romans 1:18, 3:20, 5:12, 7:21-25; Ephesians 2:1; Titus 3:5-6**)
7. We believe that the salvation of man is wholly a work of God's grace and is not the result, in whole or in part, of human works, effort, or religious ceremony. Nothing can be added to the finished work of Christ. (**John 3:16; Romans 3:24, 6:23; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5**)

8. We believe that the Church, the Body of Christ, is composed of all persons living and dead who have been joined to Christ through faith in His atonement. Every true believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:13) This relates believers to one another spiritually, regardless of church or denominational distinction. We believe the Scriptures affirm that the local church is a God-ordained instrument for worship, discipline, spiritual edification, and encouragement and the assembling together for these purposes should not be forsaken by Christians. (**Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 2:15-16, 19-22, 4:1-3; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 10:25**)
9. We believe that the believer, upon physical death, enters immediately into the presence and conscious fellowship with the Lord, and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing. (**John 12:26; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:23**) We believe that the unbeliever, upon physical death, enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from God and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgment and condemnation. (**Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:12; Revelation 20:11-15**)
10. We believe that all believers are commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to disciple people from every nation. (**Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48**)
11. We believe that the highest of the created angels, Lucifer, aspiring to displace God, fell from heaven, became Satan, and led man's fall into sin, thus introducing sin into the entire human race. His objective today is to thwart the plan of God, deceive, if possible, the whole world, and create confusion among believers. We believe that through the sacrifice of Christ, Satan is a defeated enemy who will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (**Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 25:41; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10, Revelation 12:19-20, 20:10, 21:8**)

Because of the specialized calling of the International Association of Biblical Counselors, we desire to allow for freedom of convictions on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based on the Bible alone, does not contradict any portion of this statement, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue of division which hinders the ministry of Biblical counseling to which God has called us.



IABC STATEMENT OF PRACTICE

Biblical counseling is based on the inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency of the Word of God. To safeguard against misguided and imbalanced practices of counseling which may be labeled “biblical,” some standards of practice need to be established. The following criteria are chosen as stimulants for excellence and, at the time, to be a means of providing some measure of trustworthiness for general referral. Accordingly, IABC members and counselors are asked to affirm the following:

1. I agree that the Scripture is sufficient, through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, to address all of man’s needs (2 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:16). Therefore, my counseling methods, practices, and techniques will be based upon the clear biblical principles and not upon theories of personality, model of man, psychotherapies, or philosophies derived from secular sources (1 Corinthians 3:19).
2. I agree that all mankind is in need of personal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. If those I counsel do not possess this salvation, a primary objective of my counseling must be clear, Spirit-led communication of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Romans 3:23, 6:23; Matthew 28:19-20).
3. I agree to counsel and teach the lordship of Jesus Christ in order to lead counselees away from a humanistic focus on self to a proper focus on Him (Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1-2).
4. I agree to honor the scriptural sanctity of life, marriage, and family and to do my utmost in counseling to reinforce these beliefs (Psalm 139:13-14; Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:16; Proverbs 23:25; Colossians 3:20).
5. I agree that, as God empowers me, I will live my life and conduct my relationships in godliness and holiness before Him, with the goal of living out the truths that I am teaching (Philippians 2:12-13).
6. I agree with the spiritual authority of the Church. I will evidence this by my involvement in a local church and by instructing those whom I counsel to involve themselves in a church also, thus working in concert with it rather than in competition against it (Hebrews 10:25).



WHAT IS THE PROCESS WITH IABC?

MEMBERSHIP

Membership for those desiring to be part of IABC *does not* require certification as a Biblical counselor. However, *membership is a prerequisite* for becoming a Certified Biblical Counselor with IABC. Membership also offers access to a library of resources on the IABC website. If you have NOT completed the Membership Process, please contact our Member Services Office at 1-844-843-4222 and ask for a Membership Packet today. You may also find it online at www.iabc.net under the “Membership and Certification” tab.

CERTIFICATION

IABC offers a rigorous, yet achievable program of certification for those members who meet the qualifications. Certification allows for counselors to meet a high standard of counseling excellence and Biblical integrity, promotes a uniform approach to counseling and provides cohesion in the Biblical Counseling movement.

A Certified Biblical Counselor is one who is a member in good standing and has completed all the requirements outlined in the certification manual. If you are considering certification, please begin the process by completing the Certification Application found on page 10. *Reminder: Membership with IABC is a pre-requisite for certification.*

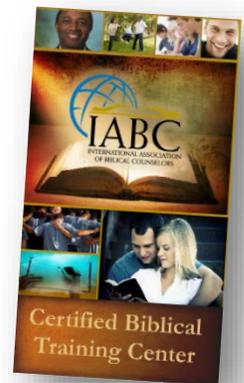
Please note: A lapse in renewing your certification may result in placing your certification on an inactive status. Those who lapse for more than 2 years will have to request renewal and provide additional documentation. (Please see page

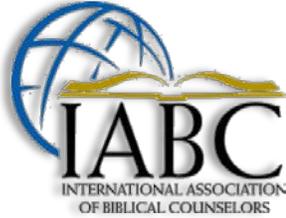
IABC CERTIFIED BIBLICAL TRAINING CENTERS

IABC Certified Biblical Training Centers are those approved by IABC to assist in training and overseeing the ministry of IABC in their appointed region. They are like-minded counseling organizations and churches that have affiliated with the International Association of Biblical Counselors. These organizations share agreement with the philosophy, statement of faith and practices of IABC and provide training for counselors who wish to be certified by IABC.

For more information on affiliating your ministry or becoming an IABC Certified Biblical Training Center, please contact our IABC Member Services Office at 1-844-843-4222.

To view our listing of Biblical Counseling Training Centers, visit us online at www.iabc.net. You will find it under the “Training Centers” tab.





IABC CERTIFICATION PROCESS

To aspire to be certified as a Biblical counselor with IABC is to seek and pursue a high objective. The demands are stringent, the rewards great. By fulfilling the basic requirements of a certified counselor you will be better equipped to minister to those who seek your help.

The responsibilities of a Biblical counselor are significant. First, the life and character of the Biblical counselor must be above reproach. Secondly, commitment to the sufficiency of Christ and His Word in the counseling process must be complete. Thirdly, there must be continuing commitment to integrity, a high standard of excellence, and accountability. Fourthly, there must be a genuine compassion for people and desire to see them standing and functioning securely in Christ.

We at IABC are here to serve you. We want you to succeed in your ministry for Christ. We will stand with you as you work through the requirements for certification, and assist you in every way possible.

In an effort to help you in your certification process, we have included in this packet helpful tools that you can use in your counseling sessions. God bless you as you set your sight on God's best for you.

CERTIFIED BIBLICAL COUNSELOR

To become a Certified Biblical Counselor is to join ranks with those who have chosen to excel in the field of Biblical Counseling.

I. Qualifications:

In selecting and evaluating people for leadership, God looks first at character qualities before any consideration of spiritual gifts, natural abilities, or special training (I Samuel 16:7; Luke 22:24-27). Therefore, though no absolute standard is established, observable growth (Matthew 28:20; 2 Peter 3:18) in the following areas is a prerequisite in order to be considered for any position of Biblical leadership. A leader shall:

1. Have a servant's heart (Luke 22:24-27).
2. Reflect the character of Christ (Philippians 2:5-11; I Peter 2:21-25).
3. Have the attitude of mind to perform his tasks as unto the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31).
4. Demonstrate a sincere love for his brothers in Christ (Ephesians 5:2; Hebrews 13:1; I John 4:7).
5. Be full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom and faith, and be of a good reputation (Acts 6:3).

II. Requirements:

1. Be a member in good standing of IABC. This membership must remain active and is renewable annually at \$60.00 (Please note that the annual renewal fee for Certification is \$75).
2. Maintain an active, continued involvement in a local church.

3. Satisfactorily complete the counseling course of study in Biblical Counseling, including but not limited to reading and training. Please see the Course of Study Syllabus on the following pages.
4. Satisfactorily complete the *Counseling Evaluation* and the *Biblical Counselor's Theological Evaluation*.
5. Fulfill the fifty-hour mentorship requirements.
6. Submit a letter of recommendation from a church or Christian organization verifying your involvement in a ministry in which counseling skills are utilized.
7. Pay your mentoring fee of \$300.00 to your IABC Training Center; and the certification processing fee of \$40.00 and annual renewal fee of \$75.00 to IABC Member Services.
8. Indicate agreement with the IABC Statement of Faith.
9. Attend an IABC Conference (International or Regional) on an average of at least once every three years.

APPLICANTS WITH PRESENT ACTIVE ACBC CERTIFICATION

NOTE ... If you are an active certified member of ACBC, and you would like to obtain Certification from IABC, simply do the following:

1. Complete the membership application, including your answers to the Membership Questions, available from Member Services or online at www.iabc.net/filerequest/2014.
2. Indicate agreement with the IABC Statement of Faith, available on Page 5 of this packet and at www.iabc.net/about-us/statement-of-faith.
3. Provide a current copy of your active ACBC Certification.
4. Mail the above, along with the annual certification due of \$75.00 made payable to IABC, to IABC Member Services.

*If you need to obtain these forms, you can find them at our IABC Website, or by contacting our Member Services Office at 1-844-THE-IABC (843-4222) or memberservices@iabc.net.

IABC Member Services
11478 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14031



POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR LAPSE IN CERTIFICATION WITH IABC

Should an IABC Certified Biblical Counselor lapse in renewing for more than 2 years, the following policies and procedures will be applied upon request for renewal:

1. Complete the IABC Counseling Evaluation* (page 22). If you are still in agreement with your original documents, you may resubmit to IABC.
2. Complete the IABC Theological Evaluation* (page 23). If you are still in agreement with your original documents, you may resubmit to IABC.
3. Submit a letter of recommendation from your church or organization verifying your current involvement in which counseling is utilized.
4. Provide three individual reference letters (one Friend, Pastor, and Colleague) using the Confidential Character Reference Form* (page 18).
5. Mail the above to IABC Member Services, along with the annual certification dues of \$75.00 made payable to IABC. Upon submission of all requested documents and any associated fees, the individual requesting renewal as an IABC Certified Biblical Counselor will be contacted and notified of the decision regarding the request for renewal as an IABC Certified Biblical Counselor.

**IABC Member Services
11478 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14031**

*If you need to obtain these forms, you can find them at our IABC Website, or by contacting our Member Services Office at 1-844-THE-IABC (843-4222) or memberservices@iabc.net.



COURSE OF STUDY SYLLABUS

Biblical counselor training toward IABC certification covers the basic approach to counseling that affects a Biblical change. Attention will be given to discovering basic behavioral problems and steps for solutions that bring about Biblical change in thoughts, attitude and behavior.

I. Objectives

- A. To develop a system for personal use in counseling in which Biblical principles are applied to life situations.
- B. To develop a personal philosophy of counseling to be implemented throughout one's ministry/vocation.

II. Requirements – *Fulfilled through the Approved IABC Certified Training Centers*

A. IABC Training Center Programs

The IABC Certification Program offers a rigorous, yet achievable program of certification for those members who meet the qualifications. Certification allows for counselors to meet a high standard of counseling excellence and Biblical integrity, promotes a uniform approach to counseling and provides cohesion in the Biblical Counseling movement, while allowing freedom of conscience and style.

A Certified Biblical Counselor is one who is a member in good standing and has completed all the requirements outlined in the certification manual. Training Center Directors are familiar with, and able to lead qualified members through the IABC certification process.

IABC Training Centers are the main avenue through which potential Certified Biblical Counselors can meet the requirement of completing an IABC approved course of study in Biblical Counseling. All fees, related to the Training Center, will be handled by the Training Center Director.

There are basically five (5) steps through which a Training Center prepares individuals for IABC certification.

1. **Forms** – The Training Center Director makes sure that the appropriate forms have been filled out and submitted.
2. **Training** – The Training Center Director will provide and oversee the training in Biblical Counseling.
3. **Testing** – The Training Center Director will provide and oversee the Counseling & Theological Evaluations.

4. **Supervised Counseling** – The Training Center Director will oversee the minimum 50 hours of counseling.
 5. **Letter of Recommendation** – After items 1-4 have been completed, the Training Center Director will submit a letter recommending the individual for Certification with IABC.
- B. Any exemptions to the IABC-approved Training Center process for Biblical counselor certification must be approved by the IABC Executive Board. Please contact the IABC Member Services Office at 1-844-THE-IABC (843-4222).
- C. Those unable to obtain the required training through a local IABC Training Center may, with the approval of the Executive Board, make inquiry with IABC Member Services by calling 1-844-843-4222 or emailing memberservices@iabc.net regarding other options, which will include but are not limited to:
1. **Forms** – Begin with Membership through the Membership Manual, available at www.iabc.net under the “Membership and Certification” tab. After steps 2-4 below have been successfully completed, the Certification Application may be submitted along with letters of recommendation.
 2. **Training** – Training DVD’s by Dr. Ed Bulkley are available for purchase. Reading requirements are listed below, with a double-spaced abstract to be submitted for each book.
 - *Why Christians Can’t Trust Psychology* by Dr. Ed Bulkley (five-paged abstract)
 - *The Christian Counselor’s Manual* by Dr. Jay E. Adams (ten-paged abstract)
 - *How to Counsel God’s Way* by Bob Hoekstra (five-paged abstract)
 - *Self-Confrontation* by John C. Broger (typed answers to Lesson 23 exam in lieu of abstract)
 - *Curing the Heart* by Dr. Howard Eyrich and Dr. William Hines (five-paged abstract)
 3. **Testing** – Successfully complete the Counseling Evaluation and the Biblical Counselor’s Theological Evaluation.
 4. **Supervised Counseling** – After successful completion of training and testing, and observation of Biblical counseling sessions, the potential applicant works with an assigned mentor who oversees a minimal 50 hours of counseling (\$300.00).

The purpose of mentoring is to assist the applicant through fifty sessions of Biblical counseling, providing feedback to the applicant on active cases. Only active cases will be considered towards the fifty sessions, unless otherwise worked out with the mentor.

The applicant’s mentor will become an invaluable resource, and we hope a trusted colleague in the ministry. Please do not request a mentor until training, testing, and any other requirements presented by IABC have been fulfilled.
 5. **Letter of Recommendation** – After items 1-4 have been completed, IABC Member Services will submit a letter of recommendation to the IABC Executive Board.



CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

Please type or print. All fields must be completed before submission.

Title: (Dr.) (Pastor) (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss)	Home Phone:
Last Name:	Office Phone:
First Name:	Mobile Phone:
Middle Name:	Fax Phone:

Birthdate (Required):	Month:	Day:	Year:
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Email*:	Website:
---------	----------

**Please note that an email address is required for certified Biblical counselor access to the resources and renewal portals of the iabc.net website. Please notify memberservices@iabc.net of any email address changes.*

Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Country:		

Please provide us with the following information:

Church Name:	Ministry Name:
Pastor's Name:	Ministry Director:
Pastor's Email:	Ministry Director's Email:
Church Address:	Ministry Phone:
Church Website:	Ministry Website (if different):

<p>May we post your information on the IABC website?</p> <p>_____ Yes _____ No</p> <p>If no, please explain:</p>	<p>May we send you mail?</p> <p>_____ Yes _____ No</p> <p>If no, please explain:</p>
---	---

Please answer the following questions: (Circle One)

I am a member in good standing of IABC.

Yes

No

I am actively involved in a local church.

Yes

No

I understand that I ***may not*** promote myself as a Biblical Counselor with IABC until I have completed the certification process.

Yes

No

I have read and fully agree with the Statement of Faith and Practice.

Yes

No

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

Yes

No

If yes, please give an explanation on a separate sheet of paper.

I am enclosing a letter of recommendation from a church or Christian organization verifying any involvement in a ministry in which counseling skills are utilized.

Yes

No

I agree to allow IABC to do a criminal background check on me in order to be considered for certification. (By answering YES and signing below, you have given written consent to this investigation.) This is required for all applying for certification (See page 9 for the form).

Yes

No

Why do you wish to be a Certified Biblical Counselor? Please answer on a separate sheet of paper.

Application fee is \$40.00. Please make checks payable to IABC.

Please return completed and signed form to our Member Services Office:

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL COUNSELORS

11478 Main Street, Clarence, NY 14031

Signed: _____ Date: _____

IABC Training Center: _____ Date: _____

For office use:

Application approved by: _____ Date: _____



CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

In accordance with IABC requirements for Certification, I authorize the International Association of Biblical Counselors to perform a criminal background check. Please read the disclaimer and complete all items (REQUIRED):

In connection with my application for certification with the International Association of Biblical Counselors ('Client'), I understand that a "consumer report" and/or "investigative consumer report", as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act, will be requested by Client for ministry purposes from Protect My Ministry, Inc., ("Protect My Ministry"), a consumer reporting agency as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act. These reports may include information as to my character, general reputation, personal characteristics or mode of living, whichever are applicable. They may involve interviews with sources such as my neighbors, friends or associates. The report may also contain information about me relating to my criminal history, credit history, driving and/or motor vehicle records, social security number verification, verification of education or employment history, worker's compensation (only after a conditional job offer) or other background checks. Such reports may be obtained at any time after receipt of this Disclosure and Authorization and if I serve as a Biblical counselor, throughout the course of my service, as permitted by law and unless revoked by me in writing. I understand that I have the right, upon written request made within a reasonable amount time after the receipt of this notice, to request disclosure of the nature and scope of any investigative consumer report to Protect My Ministry, Inc., 14499 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite 201 South, Tampa, FL 33618 or 1-800-319-5581. For information about Protect My Ministry's privacy practices, see www.protectmyministry.com.

Acknowledgement and Authorization

By signing below, I voluntarily and knowingly authorize Client or its authorized agents to obtain or prepare consumer reports or investigative consumer reports about me.

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of *A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act* http://protectmyministry.com/compliance/Public/2ASummaryofYourRightsUndertheFairCredit_Reporting_Act.pdf and certify that I have read the above Disclosure and Authorization as well as the summary explaining my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

SIGNATURE _____ TODAY'S DATE _____

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ MIDDLE NAME/INITIAL _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Continued on following page

SSN _____

Driver's License or STATE ID _____

STATE ISSUED _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

For identification purposes only, please provide FULL DATE OF BIRTH: _____

Please List Other Names Used _____

Residents of Minnesota and Oklahoma only:

Under state law you have a right to receive a copy of your consumer report, free of charge, if one is required by Client. By checking the below box, a copy will be provided to you at the address you provide on this Disclosure and Authorization.

I wish to receive a copy of any consumer report on me that is requested.

Residents of New York only:

Under state law you have the right to inspect and receive a copy of any investigative consumer report requested by Client by contacting Protect My Ministry directly. You also may acknowledge receipt of a copy of Article 23-A of the New York Correction Law by checking the below box.

I acknowledge receipt of a copy of Article 23-A of the New York Correction Law.

Residents of Washington State only:

Under state law you have a right to request a copy of the Washington Fair Credit Reporting Act's disclosure to consumers (RCW 19.182.070) and a copy of your report by contacting Protect My Ministry directly.

Residents of California and Maine only:

Under state law you have a right to receive a copy of your investigative consumer report and/or consumer credit report, free of charge, if one is requested by Client. By checking the box below a copy of your report will be provided to you at the address you provide on this Disclosure and Authorization.

I wish to receive a copy of any report on me that is requested.



CHARACTER REFERENCE FORM

The following sample letter is to be personalized by you and used as a cover letter for those you have requested to complete the character reference form following.

Dear _____,

I am applying to the *INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL COUNSELORS* (IABC) for certification as a CERTIFIED BIBLICAL COUNSELOR. Would you please complete the Character Reference form that follows and forward it to IABC as soon as possible? I have listed their mailing address below for your convenience.

IABC Member Services
11478 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14031

Your prompt attention to this would be very much appreciated as my application will not be processed until the organization receives this recommendation from you.

Sincerely,

Your Signature

Please also include the following paragraph in your letter:

Note from IABC to person completing referral:

IABC is an association of those engaged in counseling ministries with a mutual conviction of the sufficiency of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments for bringing about permanent solutions to the needs and problems of mankind. We accept the Bible as God's Word to man and believe that its principles address every area of life. We believe that the infiltration of the principles of psychology into the theological base of the evangelical church is a subtle, but very serious danger to the confidence that Christians should be placing in the Scriptures themselves. We believe strongly in the need for every person to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord, and therefore unhesitatingly advocate the communication of the truth of the Gospel in every venue, including the counseling setting.

IABC is concerned that the certified counselor be a person of godliness, purity, and of strict integrity. The process of certification can only be as good as you make it by careful, candid, and truthful reporting.



CHARACTER REFERENCE FORM

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED REFERENCE FORM WITHIN A WEEK.

CONFIDENTIAL

PERSON COMPLETING THIS REFERENCE:

(Church/Organization) _____

Applicant's Name: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Office: () _____ Home: () _____

I have known the applicant for _____ years.

My relationship to him/her was/is: (Friend) (Pastor) (Colleague) *Please Circle one*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Read each question carefully and then circle the number that best represents the applicant. This list is based on 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.

1. Evaluate the applicant's overall maturity as a Christian.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

2. Demonstrates a good reputation among fellow believers and non-Christians.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

3. Demonstrates faithfulness in relationship with his/her spouse.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

4. Demonstrates a proper balance in his/her Christian walk.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

5. Demonstrates discernment.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

6. Demonstrates a life reflecting the life of Jesus Christ.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

7. Demonstrates sharing of his/her resources with others.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

8. Able to communicate Biblical truth.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

9. Has the ability to handle those who may disagree.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

10. Demonstrates self-control with the use of alcohol and other addictive substances.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

11. Demonstrates the ability to relate to other people without being self-centered and controlling.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

12. Demonstrates an ability to control his/her anger.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

13. Demonstrates control of his/her tongue.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

14. Demonstrates gentleness in his/her relationships with others.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

15. Demonstrates objectivity and fair-mindedness in relationships with others.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

16. Is non-argumentative.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

17. Demonstrates generosity.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

18. Demonstrates a non-materialistic spirit.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

19. Demonstrates a loving attitude toward his/her spouse.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

20. Has his/her children under control.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

21. Demonstrates the ability to manage his/her household well.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

22. Demonstrates the ability to "overcome evil with good."

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent

23. Demonstrates a disciplined Christian life.

Disqualified 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Excellent



COUNSELING EVALUATION

Please type one-page answers for each question below and submit to your IABC Certified Biblical Training Center Director. Save all answers in one document with numbered pages and the questions repeated as the header for each answer. Upon completion, submit electronically and in print to your Training Center, or to IABC Member Services.

1. With what Christian counselor or counseling organization would you align your philosophy of counseling? Why?
2. Please list the five most influential counseling books you have read.
3. What is "integration" as applied to the discipline of Biblical Counseling? Why do you think IABC takes a non-integrationist stance?
4. Should a Biblical Counselor make the following statement? "You cannot really love God unless you love yourself." Why or Why not?
5. Define the sovereignty of God and its importance to the counseling process.
6. Define the providence of God and its importance to the counseling process.
7. Define the justice of God and its importance to the counseling process.
8. Define the love of God and its importance to the counseling process.
9. How would you counsel someone struggling with fear concerning world events? What homework assignment might you assign him/her?
10. Explain the importance of James 4:1 to counseling a couple with communication problems.
11. To what portions of Scripture would you appeal to help someone who believes his trials indicate God is punishing him?
12. Define Biblical marriage, including the various roles.
13. Briefly explain the Biblical teachings on sexual sins including: homosexuality, transgender issues, and same-sex marriage. Please outline how you would help someone who wants to overcome a life of sexual sins.



BIBLICAL COUNSELORS THEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- Please read carefully and provide complete answers to the following areas of inquiry.
- Repeat each of the Roman numeral headings and include the questions on your answer sheet.
- Please type each answer and number your pages.
- Send this to your IABC Training Center upon completion.

You may use any source you believe appropriate to develop your responses, but identify your sources in parentheses or footnotes.

Please support each answer with Scripture.

1) AUTHORITY & SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE (*Bibliology*)

- a) Demonstrate by using your Bible, its own claim to authority.
- b) What is meant by the term "The Inspiration of Scripture"?
- c) Give your understanding of "Biblical Inerrancy."
- d) Explain your understanding of the "Sufficiency of Scripture."
- e) Explain the following statement: "As inerrancy speaks to the rule of faith, so sufficiency speaks to the rule of practice."
- f) Explain the importance of: (1) *General Revelation* and (2) *Special Revelation* to the process of Biblical Counseling.

2) GOD THE FATHER (*Theology Proper*)

- a) What is the unique ministry of God the Father in the Godhead?
- b) What difference does the fatherhood of God make in your life?
- c) Choose and define five attributes of God.
- d) Define: "The Decrees of God."
- e) Defend Biblically how the sovereignty of God and man's free will are both essential truths.

3) GOD THE SON (*Christology*)

- a) Give your understanding of who Jesus is.
- b) What is meant by the term "the deity of Christ"?
- c) What is the role, if any, of the Lordship of Christ in Biblical Counseling?

4) GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT (*Pneumatology*)

- a) Describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Give scriptural evidence of His deity and personhood.
- b) Give your understanding of the Trinity.
- c) Describe the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the context of counseling.

5) MAN (Anthropology)

- a) Describe your view of man's nature.
- b) How would you depict man's present condition?
- c) What is meant by the "depravity of man" and why is it important to understand this doctrine in counseling?
- d) What is the problem with the present day "self-esteem" theology?
- e) How would you describe a believer's new identity in Christ?

6) SALVATION (Soteriology)

- a) How do you believe a person is "saved"?
- b) Is it ethical or unethical to explain the Gospel in a counseling session? Why?
- c) Describe how important it is to bring a counselee to Christ.
- d) Describe what role, if any, baptism plays in your salvation.
- e) How does one attain greater intimacy with God?

7) SATAN (Demonology)

- a) What is your understanding of "spiritual warfare"?
- b) Using Scripture, describe your understanding of Satan.

8) THE CHURCH (Ecclesiology)

- a) Explain why you agree or disagree with the following statements:
 - i) We affirm that Biblical Counseling falls under the authority and oversight of the body of Christ, the Church.
 - ii) We deny that Biblical Counseling falls under the authority of psychology.
 - iii) We affirm active church participation is vital for the counselor and counselee.

9) CHRISTIAN LIVING (Practical Theology)

- a) Is counseling alone sufficient for the long-term maturity of the counselee?
- b) How does Biblical Counseling relate to the Biblical mandate of discipleship?
- c) Using Scripture to support your answer, explain the following affirmation:
"Sanctification is a lifelong process, not a one-time event."

10) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY (Biblical Sociology)

- a) Using Ephesians 5, explain the Biblical roles of the husband and wife.
- b) Using Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20-21, explain the Biblical responsibilities of the parents and children.
- c) Under what conditions, if any, is divorce permitted? Use Scripture references to defend your answer.

Please choose one (1) AFFIRMATION AND DENIAL found on pages 23-26 (other than those assigned above) and develop a solid Biblical basis for defending it. If the opportunity arises we may share it in an appropriate publication.



IABC AFFIRMATIONS AND DENIALS

Statement of Purpose

The Affirmations and Denials are the distinctive of the Biblical Counseling movement and are the foundation for the beliefs and practices of IABC members.

The purpose of the Affirmations and Denials is to honor Christ, strengthen the Church, and to promote God's Word as a vital force in the believer.

It is the prayer of those of us in IABC that the Affirmations and Denials will challenge you to become a partner with us in developing them into a tool for the equipping of saints.

GENERAL REVELATION is the truth about God revealed through creation.

SPECIAL REVELATION is the truth revealed through Holy Scripture (the Bible).

BIBLICAL COUNSELING is the Christ-centered, Holy Spirit-empowered, practical and therapeutic application of Biblical truths to a person's life through nurture, instruction, correction and prayer, with the goal of personal maturity and fruitfulness.

The Authority of Scripture

The final and supreme **AUTHORITY** of the church and of every Christian is the Word of God. It is God's final word in everything that relates to faith and practice.

The Sufficiency of Scripture

SUFFICIENCY is the inherent authority of Scripture guaranteeing and providing in Christ all that man needs for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). As inerrancy speaks to the rule of faith, so sufficiency speaks to the rule of practice.

Article I: Revelation

A. Affirmation

We affirm that God reveals Himself through both Special and General Revelation.

Denial

We deny that General Revelation is God's only means of revealing Himself.

B. Affirmation

We affirm that Special Revelation is God's means of revealing truths pertinent to human belief and practice.

Denial

We deny counseling theories and practices that are not based on the Special Revelation of the Bible.

C. Affirmation

We affirm that God's revelations in total (including both General and Special Revelation) are necessary for holding man accountable to God.

Denial

We deny that General Revelation alone was intended to provide the data necessary for life and godliness.

D. Affirmation

We affirm Special Revelation (the Bible) to be the immutable, supreme, and absolute expression of God's truth to man.

Denial

We deny that either man's wisdom or General Revelation can be given equal authority with Scripture.

Article II: The Authority and Sufficiency of God's Word

A. Affirmation

We affirm that Biblical truths are sufficient, when presented in the power of the Holy Spirit, to enable the Christian to love and obey God and to seek to please Him in every way.

Denial

We deny that man's wisdom (secular theories and practices) can enable the Christian to love and obey God and to seek to please Him in every way.

B. Affirmation

We affirm the Bible to be the indispensable textbook on human and divine relationships and behavior.

Denial

We deny a lesser role for the Bible in addressing all aspects of human behavior and relationship to God.

C. Affirmation

We affirm God's Word as the voice of God to us today.

Denial

We deny that there are other voices of God ("truths") other than God's Word (Jer. 23:25-31).

D. Affirmation

We affirm that the Bible establishes the norms for right and effective living.

Denial

We deny that secular sources are sufficient to establish norms for right and effective living.

Article III: The Nature of Biblical Counseling

A. Affirmation

We affirm the fundamentals of Biblical Christian faith as the foundation for Biblical Counseling.

Denial

We deny the validity of any counseling model that ignores or minimizes the fundamentals of Biblical Christian faith.

B. Affirmation

We affirm that the Biblical Counselor builds his system of counseling, including its presuppositions, principles, and theories from Special Revelation.

Denial

We deny that the counselor can build a “Biblical” system of counseling that syncretizes secular sources and the Holy Scriptures.

C. Affirmation

We affirm that evangelism and discipleship are indispensable parts of the Biblical Counseling process.

Denial

We deny that it is unethical or unnecessary for a Christian who counsels to share his/her faith in the counseling process.

D. Affirmation

We affirm the necessity of a close, vital relationship with Jesus Christ for spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being, and that this is the objective of Biblical Counseling in the life of the counselee.

Denial

We deny the value of anything that hinders or supersedes the necessity of a close, vital walk with Jesus Christ.

E. Affirmation

We affirm that principles of behavior are to be drawn from Scripture and observation guided by Biblical information.

Denial

We deny that principles of behavior can be determined on the basis of observation alone.

Article IV: The Calling and Equipping of The Biblical Counselor

A. Affirmation

We affirm that the equipping of the saints, the work of service, and the building up of believers, all are to be done by those within the Body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Denial

We deny that mental health professionals, by virtue of their training in secular theories and practices, are qualified to equip the saints or build up the Body of Christ through psychological theories and practices.

B. Affirmation

We affirm that the equipping of the saints, the work of service, and the building up of believers, all are to be done by those within the Body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Denial

We deny that Christians, who depend on their training in secular theories and practices rather than the Bible, are qualified to equip the saints, build up the Body of Christ, or to aid in the process of sanctification.

C. Affirmation

We affirm that Biblical counseling falls under the authority and oversight of the Body of Christ, the Church.

Denial

We deny that Biblical counseling falls under the authority of psychology.

D. Affirmation

We affirm that Biblical counseling must be Christ-centered.

Denial

We deny that Biblical Counseling can be man-centered.

We would welcome any response to the Affirmation and Denials from any who see reason to amend them or to enlarge upon them in the light of the Scripture itself.

To download a copy of the Affirmations and Denials, visit our website at www.iabc.net.



We would encourage you to write for further information concerning IABC membership and Certification of Biblical Counselors.

Direct all correspondence to:
IABC Member Services • 11478 Main Street • Clarence, NY 14031



QUICK REVIEW FOR CERTIFICATION

Please use this Quick Review to ensure that you have completed all of the necessary steps to receive IABC Biblical Counselor Certification. Please contact Member Services with any questions pertaining to the process or to request additional forms at 1-844-THE-IABC (843-4222) or memberservices@iabc.net.

- I have read the IABC Certification Manual.
- I have joined IABC (\$60.00 annual fee for Member) as a member, and understand that for Certified Biblical Counselors, there is a \$75.00 annual fee.
- I have completed the requirements toward IABC Biblical Counselor certification, as per the Course of Study Syllabus.
- I have completed the "Counseling Evaluation" and "Biblical Counselor's Theological Evaluation" and my answers have been approved.
- I have completed a minimum of fifty (50) hours of mentored counseling under supervision of a mentor provided through an IABC Training Center, and have paid the mentoring fee (\$300.00) to my IABC Training Center.
- I have fulfilled all requirements necessary and understand that a letter of recommendation from my Training Center is being submitted regarding my Biblical counselor certification.
- I have sent a letter of recommendation from my church or organization verifying my involvement in a ministry in which counseling skills are utilized.
- I have asked three individuals (one Friend, Pastor, and Colleague) to complete the Confidential Character Reference Form and send it to IABC.
- I have sent the \$40.00 processing fee to IABC Member Services, along with a \$75.00 check for my first year of certification. I will pay my annual renewal dues of \$75.00 (if my address changes or for whatever reason I do not receive a renewal notice, I will notify IABC Member Services).
- I am making plans to attend an IABC Conference (Annual or Regional) to be officially received and welcomed into the IABC as a Certified Biblical Counselor.

IABC Member Services Office

Contact: Ruth Froese
11478 Main Street
Clarence, NY 14031
Phone: (844) 843-4222
Email: memberservices@iabc.net

IABC Headquarters

Contact: Holly Andrews
11500 Sheridan Blvd.
Westminster, CO 80020
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Email: holly@iabc.net



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