

# PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP/COUNSELING

## Right To Minister Agreement

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**Our primary objective is to equip individuals** to build up the Body of Christ and assist in empowering men, women, children, and families to have a greater impact on the communities they serve. This is accomplished by providing Christ-centered, Bible-based guidance—Christ-as-Life Discipleship®.

**We press forward to show individuals their freedom** from enslaving mental, emotional, and spiritual conflicts by emphasizing IDENTITY MATTERS. The counseling style is direct, honest, and truly biblical.

**Each ministry session is designed to provide** the client with an experience that centers upon the integration process of strong biblical Truth, faith, and what IOM coins as a *Transformational Biblical Worldview & Exchanged Life Development*. The indwelt Christian will become more established and pronounced in their Christian faith and become acutely aware of their self-life behavior and how it wars against the Word of God. We discover this in the [Identity Matters Workbook](#).

This counseling/discipleship is offered to all - Christians and non-Christians alike. It is particularly helpful for those interested in learning how to effectively use the Word of God in a discipleship/ministry setting, gain personal help, and further oneself in the equipping process of being a minister of the Gospel. A perfect intern environment for undergraduate and graduate students.

Clients who apply for counseling (person-to-person, phone, or internet) agree to what our ministry calls THE RIGHT TO MINISTER.

### **IOM RIGHT TO MINISTER**

Our discipleship exists to glorify God in and through the lives of its helpers and those who come for help. Our mission is to provide a unique, dynamic, bible-based discipleship service that God can use to transform lives. Though the approach is not new, the unique methods used have repeatedly proven effective. Our team presses on toward showing people how to be set free from enslaving mental and emotional conflicts through scriptural teachings and consultations.

The foundation of your assistance is based on and through IOM America's *Identity Matters Discipleship Manual*. The resource is used in most sessions. The manual contains 285 pages of diagrams that address *Playing-god, Rejection, External Living, Problems, Flesh Patterns, Repentance, Identity in Christ, Accepting Your Righteousness, Extending & Seeking Forgiveness, Resting in Christ, and Love Life in Christ*. Your discipler might request you to purchase Dr. Phinney's *Identity Matters Workbook*.

People come to us primarily through word of mouth. God working through this ministry accomplishes significant changes in the lives of those who come for help. Our biblical disciplers/counselors are trained in applying scriptural Truth regarding the Exchanged Life – “Not I, but Christ.” Our workers do not necessarily hold degrees in psychology or are licensed by the state – which usually prohibits the application of Jesus Christ being the only way, Truth, and Life. We do not assume that all problems are “spiritual,” but we believe that most “presenting problems” have a basic spiritual factor.

You have come for Biblical Exchanged Life counseling/discipleship, and we do not consider that we have the “right” to minister to you unless you give us that right. Please read the following statements before contacting us for discipleship:

### **1. AREAS OF LIFE**

We see biblical counseling/discipleship affecting seven areas of Life: SPIRITUAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL, FINANCIAL, MARITAL, and PARENTAL. Personal problems often overlap several of these areas. Therefore, we ask your permission to go into any or all of these areas to the degree necessary to come to a solution to the problem.

### **2. DIRECTIVE COUNSELING**

While careful listening and empathy are a definite part of the ministry process, our biblical counsel is direct. The style and approach to assisting needy people are straightforward. Our goal is not to offend but to use the strength of the Word to address the “issues” at large. It means definite direction and assignments are given based on the Scriptures' teachings and principles. Due to the direct nature of the counseling, it often activates issues with authority – or being “told” what to do. You agree to remain committed to working out such issues if this occurs. We encourage all applicants to read through the “[Understanding Directive Authority](#)” article before signing the agreement.

### **3. CREDENTIALS**

The word “counseling” is often associated with the ideas of “licensed” counselors. We do not take the stand that “ministers of the Gospel” must be certified with a state agency to be qualified to administer counsel to the hurting. It should be understood that our ministry may or may not use “state-certified” counselors/ministers to assist you. Since we don’t prioritize degree education, we believe qualified helpers of the Word can be without such higher education. Our disciplers are equipped with the Word of God to minister the Truth openly and freely.

#### **4. NO DECISIONS**

No decisions will be made for you. You are the one(s) who will decide what you will do with the teaching given to you. However, suppose there is persistence in ignoring the instruction or refusing to complete assignments. In that case, the question of the advisability of continuing the biblical counseling process may be raised.

Due to humanity’s need to process bulk information that fronts their flesh, it is appropriate to “take a break” from the counseling process. We consider this normal, natural, and neutral. However, we believe the “client” should return to the process once ready to integrate the identified Truths in Christ into their daily living.

#### **5. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

We do not charge for servicing you with the Gospel. IOM America is a 501c3 non-profit. We would be honored to receive gifts and donations to assist us in accomplishing our mission (make use of any donation button on our website).

#### **6. TIME FACTOR**

Each session lasts from 60 to 90 minutes. We do not have a definite minimum or a maximum number of sessions required, but we will not keep you coming beyond a reasonable time. If outside help is needed in areas where other services have special expertise, referrals will be made – as in the case of a neurologist.

#### **7. APPARENT REGRESSION**

It frequently happens (though not always) that as a person begins to follow biblical Christ-As-Life principles, the life experience may get worse. This is no reason to quit or think you are not progressing. On the contrary, it may indicate that you ARE making progress. When a person’s life situation is unmanageable, there is usually the need for unlearning and undoing certain beliefs and actions so that progress can be made in a new direction. We mention this so you will not be surprised or disheartened.

## 8. CONFIDENTIALITY

We are committed to a rule of confidentiality regarding what is discussed. However, certain qualifications apply. Where further insight or guidance is needed, your discipler/counselor may consult with other IOM America team members. Secondly, where a crime has been or is being committed, particularly against a minor, it is required by law to report such activity. Further, knowledge of a threatened act of violence against someone also may be reported. Finally, when a counselor is ministering to multiple family members, there typically is an “overlapping” of counseling data that is exchanged.

When conducting “family/group counseling,” it is difficult to manage personal data exchange. Your discipler is committed to encouraging all group participants to keep the spoken data within the confines of the group. It must be understood that your discipler cannot be responsible for “gossip” among family or group members. Furthermore, all data exchanged within a session is a mutual agreement to confine the information within the boundaries of the “client/counselor” privilege act.

## 9. MUTUAL TERMINATION

We ask that you seriously consider the teaching given. If you decide not to continue your counseling, we ask that you follow the guidelines in the Scriptures and share your concerns with your counselor. First, share your concerns one-on-one before terminating or bringing a third party into the process. These guidelines are set in place to resolve conflicts according to biblical guidelines. Your discipler desires you to receive help even if you choose not to use our services.

Your commitment is for one year. Termination of discipleship is according to the guidelines noted in item #9.

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Applicant's Signature

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Date

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Discipler/Counselor's Signature

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Date