

1. Please know that your counselor will be committed to biblical confidentiality, as we understand it. We believe that there are certain circumstances where the Bible would require the disclosure of some information. Your counselor will carefully guard the information you entrust to him/her; however, in the following situations it may be necessary to share certain information with others:
 - a. When the counselor is uncertain of how to address a particular problem and needs to seek advice from another counselor, pastor or elder in this church, (this would be done anonymously, of course)
 - b. If you are not a part of Bethany Community Church, it may be necessary for your counselor to talk with the pastor or other leader from your church (The counselor will disclose to others only the information that is believed necessary for them to effectively and biblically fulfill their responsibility to shepherd you)
 - c. When there is a clear indication that someone (including yourself) may be harmed unless others intervene
 - d. When the counselor sees reasonable cause to believe child abuse is occurring, the counselor will act in accordance with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act [325 ILCS 5/3].
 - e. If there is persistent refusal to respond to biblical truth and renounce a particular sin and it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of others in the Body of Christ to encourage repentance and reconciliation (see Proverbs 15:22, 24:11 and Matthew 18:15-20 for further information on the matter of limited confidentiality).
2. One primary function of our ministry is to equip lay-people for personal ministry. Therefore you can expect a trainee (or couple) to be present during your sessions for the purpose of observing the counseling process. You can be assured that they are committed: 1) to complete confidentiality, 2) to observe only; they normally will not participate in your sessions, 3) to praying for you during each session as well as during the week, 4) they may also be available to mentor or disciple you between sessions throughout the counseling process and possibly after you 'graduate' from counseling. We believe strongly that your counseling experience will be greatly enhanced with the involvement of trainees.