

Hope Biblical Counseling

At WBC, in all areas of ministry, we desire to help each other understand and apply the counsel of God's word to everyday living. We desire to encourage one another - especially as we face the many trials and disappointments of life. We foster a culture of discipleship where members with redeemed hearts will naturally care for other members through word, prayer, and good deeds.

***Hope Biblical Counseling* is a ministry of WBC particularly focused on providing confidential biblical counsel to hurting Christians.** Counselors serving in the *Hope Biblical Counseling* ministry acquire specialized training and biblical skills to effectively counsel fellow Christians in particular kinds of struggles. This is undertaken with a strict code of confidentiality. Such counselors continually seek more training to effectively counsel in a Christ-like manner and to address a number of complex situations.

In a Fallen World

In a fallen world, we expect things to go wrong - and to that end we often need help from others. But what about those things we tend to hide from others? Those things that test our faith? Those things that gnaw away at our peace and joy in Christ? Relationships cool and are destroyed. Problems progress to a point where you feel defeated but long for help. Christians are not immune to temptations and sin. Over time, sinful thoughts can lead to habitual sinful behavior patterns: anxiety, depression, bitterness, and sometimes lustful living temptations and transgressions. Yes - we sometimes need more specialized help through the biblical counsel of qualified brothers and sisters in Christ. There are times when God uses others to compassionately and confidentially understand our circumstances, and then guide us to Scripture that provides Hope in Christ and encouragement in our time of need.

Our Hope is in Christ

We believe that God understands our humanity, clearly evidenced through Jesus Christ His Son who is able to fully help those who are being tempted (Heb 2:14-18). Our hope is in Jesus Christ - the Living Word. The Way, the Truth, and the Life. The source of abundant life. (John 1:1-5; John 14:6; John 10:10). We believe in prayer to find grace to help in our time of need (Heb 4:16). The Light of Christ does shine through the sufficient written word of God (John 8:12; John 20:31). And, the Holy Spirit yearns for our cooperation so we may be transformed into the image of Christ. (2 Cor 3:18; Rom 12:2). With complete hope we may cast our burdens upon Jesus Christ our Lord (Matt 11:28-30).

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The Nature of Our Counsel

Our counsel is a *spiritual ministry of the church*. As such, our counselors do not require licensing by the State. Our counsel is centered on God's word. Any questions in this regard would be answered upon start of counsel. We believe that biblical counsel is effective only for a believer in Christ, and one who is willing to accept God's word for faithful application to their life for the glory of God. At Webster Bible Church we consider offering counsel to Christians who are not members of WBC. Both members and non-members are expected to sign certain forms related to authorizations and expectations. For more information on admittance to counselling, see our [HBC: Counseling Forms Package](#).

As biblical counselors our approach is:

- To listen, understand, and demonstrate compassionate love.
 - *To love as Christ would love.*
- To provide effectual help we must first discern situations from a biblical perspective.
 - *To discern as Christ would discern.*
- We patiently help our counselees to see their situation in the light of the Gospel.
 - *To find everyday hope in Christ.*
- In the power of the Holy Spirit, and through ongoing prayer, we will encourage and exhort our counselees towards ongoing heart change that leads to behavioral change.
 - *This is what achieves joy and peace and pleases God.*

At Webster Bible Church, many members are equipped for one-another ministry of encouragement and prayer. That is to say, they are ready to come alongside you beyond any confidential counseling sessions, They will further encourage you through the scriptures and prayer as you grow in a godly relationship with Christ. One-another ministry is a natural extension to formal and confidential sessions of biblical counsel.