

Commitment to Confidentiality

A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret. (Prov. 11:13).

The Bible teaches that Christians should carefully guard any personal and private information that others reveal to them. Protecting confidences is a sign of Christian love and respect (Matt. 7:12). It also discourages harmful gossip (Prov. 26:20), invites confession (Prov. 11:13), and thus encourages people to seek needed counseling. Since these goals are essential to the ministry of the gospel and the work of the local church, all members and adherents are expected to refrain from gossip and to respect the confidences of others, subject to the following guidelines.

Although confidentiality is to be respected as much as is possible, there are times when it is biblically necessary or appropriate to reveal certain information to others in the process of helping people, such as in the following circumstances:

- When a counselor is uncertain of how to counsel a person about a particular problem and needs to seek advice from the leadership of Calvary Memorial Church or, if the person attends another church, from the leaders of that church (Prov. 11:14).
- When it is believed that the person who disclosed the information, or any other person, is in imminent danger of serious harm unless others intervene (Prov. 24:11-12).
- When a Christian refuses to repent of sin and it becomes necessary to promote repentance through accountability and redemptive church discipline (Matt. 18:15-20).
- When the leadership is required by law to report behavior that is against the law (Rom. 13:1).

To be clear, the intent in divulging any information is to help, never to harm.

Commitment to Biblical Counseling

I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another (Romans 15:14).

All Christians struggle with sin and its effect on our lives and our relationships. Whenever believers are unable to overcome sinful attitudes or behaviors through personal efforts, God calls them to seek assistance from other believers, and when needed, from church leaders (see Rom. 15:14; Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 13:17; Jam. 5:16). Therefore, we encourage believers to seek counsel from each other and confess sins to one another.

There will be times when it will be necessary for church leaders to become involved in the counseling process. Since our leaders often do not have sufficient time to meet with every person who asks for counseling, they will give priority to people who have formally joined the church (Gal. 6:10).

We believe that the Bible provides thorough guidance and instruction for faith and life (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore, our counseling is based on scriptural principles rather than those of secular psychology or psychiatry.

As Christians counsel one another, we should treat each other with respect and courtesy, and avoid even the appearance of impropriety or impurity (Eph. 5:3). Therefore, we will be willing to seek counsel with at least two believers when it is appropriate to protect from unwarranted accusation and any appearance of evil (1 Thes. 5:22).

In cases where confidential information is shared, we will not try to compel those counseling us to testify in any legal proceeding or otherwise divulge the confidential information in a way that will be used for selfish or personal gains (Prov. 11:13, 25:9).

Comparing Presuppositions

Question #1: Who are we?

Atheism

vs. _____

- Gen. 1:1 - *In the beginning God...*

Naturalism/Reductionism vs.

_____ and _____

- 2 Cor. 4:16 - *though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.*

Individualism

vs. _____-oriented

- Matt. 22:37-39 - *"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."*
- 1 Cor. 10:24 - *Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor.*

Relativism/Pragmatism

vs. _____ and _____

- Rom. 2:15 – *[Unbelievers] show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.*
- Isa. 5:20 – *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.*
- Jam. 4:17 - *...to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.*

Hedonism

vs. _____

- 2 Tim. 3:2,4 – *For men will be...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*

Victimization

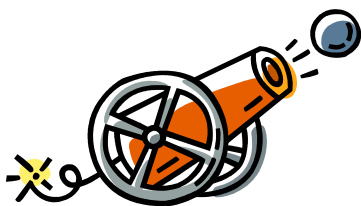
vs. _____

- Eze. 18 – judgement according to each individual

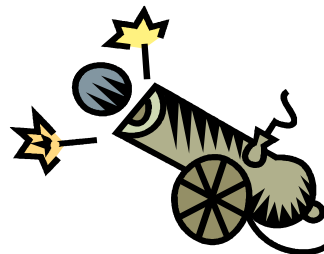
Gnosticism

vs. God-_____

- Phil. 3:10 – that I may know Him...



Psychology
Humanistic Thinking



God's Word

Romans 1 – man's unrighteousness seeks to choke out God's righteousness
Psalm 1 – the counsel of the wicked and the counsel of the godly