

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



Membership Manual



Changing lives one
person at a time.





Dear New Friend,

Thank you for inquiring about the International Association of Biblical Counselors. Enclosed you will find a handbook explaining the membership process. Please read it carefully, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact our Executive Vice President, Dr. Kevin Hurt at kevin@iabc.net.

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 for our IABC Annual Bible Conference the first week in August in Denver, Colorado.

I encourage you to fill out your membership 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ed Bulkley'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

President, IABC



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 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.

Would you like to know more about Counseling God's Way? Then we invite you to order a copy of the book, [Counseling God's Way](#), by Bob Hoekstra, one of our representatives. It could be the turning point in your ministry of counseling as we encourage one another.



What is the Purpose & Process at IABC?

What is the Purpose of IABC?

IABC is Changing Lives

Biblical Counseling is one of the most powerful and fastest growing movements today. Its impact is being felt throughout the Church and in the lives of many individuals. As God's alternative to secular psychology, Biblical Counseling is an effective force in changing the lives of those who seek Him.

IABC is Biblically Based

IABC is a response to organizations and individuals who saw the need for basic standards, beliefs, and practices in counseling. IABC holds to the inerrancy of Scripture in faith and the sufficiency of God's Word in practice.

IABC Training and Support

IABC promotes Biblical Counseling through seminars, conferences and workshops, encourages the development of biblical research, and offers a counselor network for the exchange of information and client referral.

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.

A member is not required to be active in a counseling ministry but is included in the activities and benefits of the Association. Such benefits include updates on the issues related to Biblical Counseling, opportunities for you to grow through upcoming conferences, the IABC Newsletter, resources and tools useful for ministry, and much more. By being a member of this organization you will be assisting us in equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry (To become a Member of IABC simply complete the Membership Application on page 4).

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 include a request for the certification manual when you submit your application for membership. Upon the approval of your membership, you may begin the certification process.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Membership is a Prerequisite to the Certification Program)

Please type or print:

Circle one: (Dr.) (Rev.) (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Mobile: _____

Personal E-mail: _____

Ministry, Church or Counseling Organization: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Office: _____ Website: _____ E-mail: _____

Circle your answer please:

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|----|
| 1. | I am actively involved in a local church. | Yes | No |
| 2. | I have read and fully agree with the IABC Statement of Faith and Statement of Practice on pgs. 5-7 (enclose signed statement). | Yes | No |
| 3. | I have completed the Membership Questions on pg. 8 (enclose signed statement). | Yes | No |
| 4. | I understand the difference between membership and being a Certified Biblical Counselor of IABC. | Yes | No |
| 5. | I understand that as a Member of IABC I may not promote myself as a Certified Biblical Counselor. | Yes | No |

Mail forms and Membership dues of \$60.00 to our Member Services Office:
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BIBLICAL COUNSELORS

11478 Main Street, Clarence, NY 14031

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership Approved by: _____ Date: _____



International Association of Biblical Counselors

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*).
2. I agree to honor the scriptural sanctity of life, marriage, and family and to do my utmost in counseling to reinforce these beliefs (*Psalms 139:13-14; Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:16; Proverbs 23:25; Colossians 3:20*).
3. 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*).
4. 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*).

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Applicant: Please return signed copy with membership application.

Make a copy for your own reference.



International Association of Biblical Counselors

Statement of Faith

IABC member 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 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, as the sufficient and final authority for guiding man to faith in God 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. 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 work, in whole or in part, of human works, effort, or religious ceremony. We believe that God imputes them in His sight. 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 conscious fellowship with the Lord, and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing (*John 12:26; 1 Corinthians 15:22ff; 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 caused man's fall into sin, thus introducing sin into the entire human race. Satan's 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 and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry of biblical counseling to which God has called us.

Name: _____
(Please Type or Print)

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____



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