

**Grace Fellowship Church is committed to equipping believers to do the work of ministry (Eph. 4:11-12), rather than just watching the pastoral staff do it for them.**

We believe that other godly, gifted believers who know their Bibles, and how to apply biblical truth to specific life issues, can effectively counsel others.

*"I am satisfied that you yourselves are rich in goodness, filled with all spiritual knowledge and competent to admonish and counsel and instruct one another also." Rom. 15:14*

All of our counselors have been taking training in biblical counseling and many are certified through Crown Financial Ministries. We are continually training others to be effective counselors. Part of the training includes the opportunity to observe another counselor in actual counseling sessions.

**With this ministry model we ask that you agree to allow a person or couple who is in training to sit in on your counseling sessions, for the purpose of prayer, training and observation.**



**Counseling Center**

OF GRACE FELLOWSHIP

Helping each other please God

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[graceky.org](http://graceky.org)

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*financial counseling*

Grace Fellowship Church

### What Type of Counseling Is This?

Financial counseling at Grace Fellowship Church is based on principles found in God's Word. Bible-based counseling differs a great deal from other popular or secular counseling ("heavenly wisdom vs. human wisdom" James 3:13-18). Its paramount goal is to search God's Word for the principles and methods He has already provided. Its premise is that God's instruction is always needed immediately, consistently, and without contradiction in our personal finances. God's Word is needed to guide individuals in a God-honoring manner and on to a healthy walk with the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:17; Rom. 8:28-29; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:17- 5:20). Biblical financial counseling acknowledges that people may become confused, ill-adjusted, defeated, and hopeless relative to their finances.

### What is the Goal of Biblical Financial Counseling?

Our finances are a huge battleground, and the battle is in our heart. One thing that battles for your heart is money. We love God with most of our heart, but we just don't want Him to tell us what to do with our money. However, the Word clearly tells us that where our treasure is (money, iToy, home, car, boat, etc.), that's where our heart will be as well. If we want to truly love Him with all of our hearts, we have to be willing to fight the battle over our finances and to give Him ALL/COMPLETE control. Biblical financial counseling has as its primary goal to help a person or family become "God's kind of person." The goal in biblical counseling is not necessarily to make the person feel better or simply to remove the problem. This will hopefully take place, but the goal is bigger than that. 2 Cor. 5:9 says "So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it." The goal in biblical counseling is to come along side a person who is struggling and seek to apply the principles in God's Word in such a way that the person responds in an obedient and godly manner in their finances.

### What Makes Biblical Counseling Effective?

Biblical counseling relies upon: the power of the principles that God has provided in His Word (Heb. 4:12; Psalm 19), the work of the Holy Spirit (Phil. 2:13), the faithfulness of God to answer prayer (Mt. 7:7-12; James 5:17-18), the mutual encouragement and exhortation of the Body of Christ (Heb. 10:24-25), and the disciplined effort of the counselee (I Tim. 4:7).

### Who Can Make An Appointment?

First priority will be given to members of Grace Fellowship Church who desire biblical financial counseling. Second priority will be given to people who are regular attendees of Grace Fellowship. All counselees are to attend a Grace Fellowship worship service on Sunday and a Grace Fellowship small group during the week. These two additional means of grace will be of great benefit toward changing and growing during the period of counseling.

### When Are Appointments Available?

Counseling is presently offered Wednesday evenings between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the church. Several of our counselors also provide help at other times during the week, including Sundays.

### How Often Will Appointments Be Scheduled?

Counselors will meet with a counselee weekly or monthly depending on the individual situation.

### What Will Be The Length of Each Counseling Session?

Counseling sessions are 50-60 minutes long.

### What Is Expected of The Counselee?

#### The counselee must be willing to:

- Sign the Consent to Financial Counseling form provided in the initial forms that are sent.
- Agree to place yourself under the authority of the Elders of Grace Fellowship Church.
- Agree to the presence of counselors in training during your sessions.
- Regularly attend a Sunday service at Grace Fellowship Church and a Grace sponsored small group during the week.
- Complete any assigned homework prior to the counseling appointment (assignments may include reading materials, listening to CDs, worksheets, and Scripture memory & meditation). The counselor reserves the right to discontinue any counseling if the counselee consistently refuses to complete homework assignments.
- Arrive on time for each appointment and call ahead to reschedule when necessary.

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As a safe-guard, male counselors will not meet alone with women for counseling. A female counselee who has an appointment with a male counselor must be accompanied by one other person willing to sit in during the counseling session (a spouse, parent, or friend).

#### How Can an Appointment Be Made?

Financial counseling forms are to be completed & returned to the church office. Forms are available at [www.graceky.org](http://www.graceky.org). A counselor will contact you to set up the initial appointment.

#### What Is The Cost?

There is no cost for the counseling, but each counselee is expected to pay for any materials such as books and CDs.