

CONSENT FOR CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Breakthroughs Psychological Services, LLC (BPS) offers Christian counseling services to individuals and families. Dr. Renita Gabriel is a Board Certified Professional Christian Counselor through the Board of Christian Professional and Pastoral Counselors (BCPPC) of the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC).

What is Christian Counseling?

According to the BCPPC:

Professional and ministry-based Christian counseling builds upon biblical truth and spiritual practice along with the relevant theoretical and practical contributions of various mental health traditions to help produce Christ-like character, behavior, and contentment in the lives of the people and systems that are served.

How do Christian Counselors Help?

Christian counselors of all kinds – when in the client's interest, with their consent, and when appropriate in the counseling process – pray for and with clients; read the Bible and make reference to Scripture; encourage the confession of sin, the practice of forgiveness, and the making of amends; support the practice of the spiritual disciplines; and give assistance or make referral for spiritual interventions and other specialized practices. When consent does not exist, Christian counselors may still be engaged in some of these activities silently and implicitly, always functioning in the best interests of their clients. These spiritual practices are not illegal, unethical, or illegitimate, nor are they antagonistic to the aforementioned clinical/ministerial purposes and practices. Christian counseling is not dichotomized into sacred and secular compartments, but from the perspective of the mental health professions, is rightly seen as holistic, adjunctive, and building upon the Word of God.

What do Christian Counselors Believe?

The following is the Doctrinal Statement of Christian Counselors who are board certified through the BCPPC:

Christian Counselors believe...

- In one God, creator and sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally co-existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are the inspired and trustworthy Word of God, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of human beings, and the final authority for all matters about which it speaks.
- That human nature derives from two historical persons, male and female, created in God's image. They were created perfect, but they sinned, plunging themselves and all human beings into sin, guilt, suffering, and death. That the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ and His bodily resurrection provide the only grounds for justification, forgiveness, and salvation for all who believe, and only those who trust in Him alone are born of the Holy Spirit, true members of the Church, and will spend eternity with Christ.

- That the Holy Spirit is the agent of regeneration and renewal for believers in Christ, that He makes the presence of Jesus Christ real in believers, and that He comforts, guides, convicts, and enables believers to live in ways that honor Him.
- That ministry to persons also acknowledges the complexity of humans as physical, psychological, social, and spiritual beings. The ultimate goal of Christian counseling is to help others move to personal wholeness, interpersonal competence, mental stability, and spiritual maturity.

By signing below I am indicating that I understand what Christian Counseling is and how it may be used in my treatment as described above. Additionally, my signature indicates that I am consenting to the use of the spiritual disciplines (e.g. prayer, biblical reference) in my treatment upon request and where deemed therapeutically appropriate by my treatment provider.

Client Signature

Date

Provider Signature

Date