



BEREA BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY COUNSELING CENTER

A Lay Led Counseling Ministry

Vision

Berea Baptist church would like to be known for loving one another and our neighbors and in doing so demonstrates that love in our hearts, hands, and minds. The bible reveals Gods intentions, that as Christians we are to live in a relationship with Jesus Christ and one another. In doing so we are committed to love one another by encouraging one another, supporting one another, and providing compassionate counseling as God's word directs us. Thereby fulfilling the two greatest commandments. – *Matthew 22: 37-39*

Berea Baptist Church Lay Led counseling ministry is committed to honoring God by helping those in our church and community apply the gospel to everyday struggles. As we walk alongside those in need we seek to grow in our relationship with the lord and honor Him as we help others connect the scriptures to their struggles, joys, and concerns in everyday life. – *2 Corinthians 5:18-20*

Mission

The Lay Led Counseling Ministry here at Berea exists to provide compassionate, redemptive biblical care for our members and surrounding community, who are suffering and in need of the gospel of grace.

Philosophy

Our understanding of Biblical Counseling is it is both compassionate care and targeted discipleship occurring in a both formal and informal trusting relationships. The goal of Biblical Counseling is to help people grow humbly and wisely in their relationship with God and others. Giving them the opportunity to be heard and understood and help them apply the Gospel to everyday struggles. The fruit of Biblical Counseling is to become more Christlike as we grow in grace and demonstrate the fruit of the spirits. – *Galatians 5:22-23* – We believe that Christians can be comforted, strengthened and nurtured in faith and their relationship with Jesus Christ through the Bible.

The Human Condition: Our fallen condition requires the redeeming grace of the Gospel to live a life pleasing to God. We know that human behavior is tied to the deepest motivations of the heart and sin's physiological impact on the mind and body.

The Sufficiency of Scripture: As we read the bible, God teaches us to see the world the way He sees it and to see all things as they exist in relation to Him. We believe the Bible speaks to the Mundane and extremely complex problems that are part of this fallen human condition. The Bible contains everything God wants us to know and what we need to know for salvation and for trusting and obeying Him also in solving our problems and building relationships.

The Work of Christ: The good news (the Gospel) of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, present intercession and promised return brings hope to everyone with a personal and relational difficulty. Jesus our faithful redeemer, enables to persevere during our problems. We understand that, life- altering trials can bring unspeakable suffering which takes a measure of time to work through. We also understand in dealing with sin, change can be often a slow and painful process. Jesus promises to abide in us as we abide in Him. He gives grace for healing, recovery, and growth so we can walk in wisdom. He is the hope and motivation for change.

The Role of the Holy Spirit: As the Holy Spirit applies the redemptive work of Christ to the hearts of His people, He draws us to Christ and convicts us of sin. The Holy Spirit also works through the words of truth of the counselor, so repentance is made possible, forgiveness is found in Christ and growth in sanctification and spirit maturity occurs. The Holy Spirit enables us to walk in the spirit, thus obeying Christ and bringing glory to our Heavenly Father.

The Role of the Church: In providing Biblical counsel, we as the church are to make wise application of Biblical truths and grace in our own lives as well as the lives of others. We believe the church is responsible for loving graciously and wisely, speaking truth carefully and providing wisdom from Gods word.

The Role of Specialized Care: While we believe the church is a primary means of grace and care for its members , there may be times when the counseling ministry of Berea Baptist Church may make referrals to outside organizations and caregivers who specialize in certain fields. We understand that problems that effect the brain will often require ongoing medical treatment. We also support our members who pursue treatment that does not conflict with biblical principles that collaborates with Berea Baptist Counseling ministry.

The Role of the Church to Counsel: While we recognize that not every church member is completely equipped to help in every situation, we do believe those called and trained in the ministry of Biblical Counseling, filled with the spirit of God, can offer Biblical counsel to one another in humility and with grace. When the church rightly understands Biblical Counseling then the church is fulfilling the call of, 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 – *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all Comfort, who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”.*

“Unless the Lord builds the house, it’s builders labor in vain” - Psalm 127:1



About Jim and Lisa Houseknecht

Jim and Lisa have been working with children and adults for the past 20 years. They taught children and adult classes at New Life Outreach International Church for approximately 12 years, including pre-marital counseling and marriage building classes . For the past 8 years they have served at Berea Baptist Church also teaching children and adult classes.

Lisa has a 4-year certificate in Biblical Counseling from the Christian Counseling Training Center in Richmond. Upon graduation she has continued counseling children and adults and mentoring students at the center.

Jim has recently graduated from Liberty University with a Bachelor’s degree in Biblical studies and Christian counseling. He is also a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. He has also joined Lisa in counseling at the center.

Berea Baptist is a growing family of Christ-followers dedicated to deep Bible study, God-centered worship, authentic mission outreach, and unity of fellowship.

Founded in 1846, Berea is located at the crossroads of three counties: Hanover, Henrico, and Goochland. We are minutes from both Short Pump and I-64.



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