

CORNERSTONE DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING CENTER

INFORMATION PACKET



CORNERSTONE DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING CENTER

WELCOME AND PERSONAL COST

Thank you for your interest in Cornerstone Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Training Center (CDBC). CDBC is a discipleship and biblical counseling training school and is a part of the biblical counseling ministry at Cornerstone Church. We are very excited about equipping the church with the Word of God so that we may be competent to counseling others and ourselves with Christlikeness, competence and compassion.

As you are considering if CDBC is something that you desire to be a part of, we would ask that you prayerfully and carefully consider the personal cost to you.

Training Commitment

- CDBC is a 7-8-month program that meets for 3 hours on Monday evenings. Half of the class is devoted to lecture and the other half is devoted to personal application.
- We meet for 10 weeks in the Fall, Winter and Spring over the course of 2 years
- Consistent attendance is vital to your training. We ask that you attend 90% of the classes.
- There will be about 3-4 hours of homework each week that corresponds with the lecture. You will benefit the most if you complete the homework. However, if you are only able to come and participate in the lectures, please still come.
- Each class has required books that help to supplement the lectures.
- There is a fee of \$200 for the year that covers class notes, other materials and the cost of the meeting location.

Ministry Commitment

- We teach that all believers are called to make disciples. CDBC is designed to practically equip you to grow in your walk with Christ and to equip others as well. This will take place in informal discipleship or in more formal counseling.
- All who take the class will be better equipped to make disciples and should be seeking to do so in the context of the local church. During the entirety of your time in training, you will disciple someone. Your Gospel Community leader will help you with whom to disciple.
- Some who finish CDBC will desire and be gifted to continue on to be a part of the formal counseling ministry in Cornerstone Church.
- Counselors will be assigned to counsel those in the church and in the community as needed and may be called upon in crisis situation.
- All men who desire to lead Gospel Community groups must complete CDBC.

CORNERSTONE DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING CENTER

WELCOME AND PERSONAL COST

- All who take CDBC should expect to spend multiple hours a week studying the Word, reading other resources, and praying in preparation for those who you are discipling and counseling.

In this packet you will find the following documents to be either read and/or filled out:

- Cornerstone Church's Biblical Counseling Mission Statement
- Cornerstone Church's Distinctive on Biblical Counseling
- Profile of CDBC Graduate
- Cornerstone Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Training Center Student Application

BIBLICAL COUNSELING

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

CHRISTLIKENESS, COMPETENCE, COMPASSION

- I. Mission – To equip you to meet the challenges of life by the transforming power of Jesus Christ for the glory of God. (Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:28; 2 Corinthians 5:9)
- II. Vision – To have Christlike, competent, and compassionate counselors who use the Bible as the only authority for help and change in the context of the local church. It is our desire that through counseling and counseling training that that we have a church of equipped men and women who are competent to counsel one-another. It is also our desire that we pass on what we have been given so that other churches in Wyoming and in the world will be filled with competent biblical counselors.
- III. Implementation – We are committed to living this out by:
 - a. Offering counseling to all in the church and the community free of charge to care for, comfort, encourage, and admonish God's people.
 - b. Stressing the importance of the local church's Sunday Gathering, one-on-one meetings and Gospel Community groups as part of the growth process.
 - c. Offering training and equipping classes through CDBC, FOF, EOF, Men's Leadership Equipping, Women's Equipping and other means to help with equipping in Christlikeness, competence in counseling and theology, and compassion for those to whom we minister.
 - d. Having observers sit in on counseling sessions.
 - e. Stressing the importance of on going training for counselors.
 - f. Having standard criteria for counselors to meet before they become a part of the counseling ministry.

DISTINCTIVE ON BIBLICAL COUNSELING

Biblical counseling seeks to lovingly help each other increasingly honor Jesus Christ in everyday living. Biblical counseling operates on the presuppositions that:

- God is our Creator and therefore has the absolute and objective say on life;
- People's ultimate fulfillment is living lives that please Jesus Christ;
- God's Word is the totally sufficient source of authority in all matters of life and godliness;
- The problem with man is sin, and the solution is salvation through trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ;
- The process is application of Scripture by the help of the Holy Spirit;
- The result is deeper love for and glory to Jesus Christ with the ability to also help others do the same.
- It must be understood that biblical counseling is not a special ministry reserved for the expert. It can be done and should be done by anyone who believes in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16).

Biblical counseling is the personal discipleship ministry of God's people to others under the oversight of God's church, dependent upon the authority and sufficiency of God's Word through the work of the Holy Spirit. Biblical counseling seeks to reorient disordered desires, affections, and behaviors toward a God-designed anthropology in an effort to restore true worship of God and right fellowship with others. This is accomplished by speaking the truth in love and applying Scripture to the need of the moment by comforting the suffering and calling sinners to repentance, thus working to make them mature as they abide in Jesus Christ.¹ (Colossians 1:28; 1 Thessalonians 5:14). (Romans 12:4, 5).. In doing so, biblical counseling seeks to restore the ones seeking counsel to a place where they can most glorify God with their lives and effectively serve the body of Christ (Romans 12:4, 5). The goal of biblical counseling is to equip you to meet the challenges of life by the transforming power of Jesus Christ for the glory of God (Romans 15:14; Colossians 1:28; 2 Corinthians 5:9). This is accomplished by understanding that, 1) There is a fundamental problem of sin, that is either committed by you (because we are born sinners) and/or committed against you (because we all live in a sin cursed world), that affects heart desires, thinking and behavior, and needs to be changed God's way. The desire is not that people become more moral, but rather that they become people who are worshippers of what really matters and live a God glorifying life as image bearers (Gen 1:17-28; Heb 9:13-14). We are all worshippers of something. 2) We use God's Word, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, to change heart desires, thinking and behavior, which are contrary to the Scriptures. We believe that God's Word is fully sufficient to handle all of the issues of life. 3) All this is done out of love for those seeking counsel, for their salvation, and sanctification. At times it may seem unloving to confront sin. However, since the goal of life is to glorify God and to become more like Christ, pointing out sin in another's life is the most loving thing that can be done at that moment (Gal 6:1-3). Paul says in Colossians 1:28 that our goal is to admonish and teach every

¹ From ACBC

DISTINCTIVE ON BIBLICAL COUNSELING

man so that every man may be complete in Christ. The pursuit of Christlikeness takes much time and effort and it is at the very heart of biblical counseling.

While many forms of counseling seek to modify behavior only, Biblical counseling seeks to modify the desires and motivations of the heart that produce human behavior. Changed heart desires produce changed behavior. Often the illustration of a tree is used to explain biblical counseling. The root of the tree is like the heart of a person while the fruit is like the person's thoughts, words, and actions. Jesus said, "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills the heart" (Luke 6:45). Jesus taught that people sin not because they are forced, not because of their environment, nor because the devil made them do it, but because of wrong desires and motivations of each individual's heart (Mark 7:21-23).

The process by which we grow in sanctification is a willful act of repentance of sin and a turning toward God out of love for Him. We must recognize our sinful state in which we have no ability to do good and no power to change on our own. This lifelong process of change is twofold in which both God and man cooperate: 1) God changes us through the Holy Spirit by His grace and according to His Word (1 Corinthians 6:11; Philippians 1:6); 2) This change in the believer's life is lived out by a continual putting off of sin and a putting on of God's desires for our life (Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10). The ultimate goal of biblical counseling is to help those seeking counsel to become more conformed into the image of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Biblical counseling is part of the sanctification process. This growth and change into the image of Jesus Christ is to be of upmost priority of the believer.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH BIBLICAL COUNSELING

PROFILE OF A CDBC GRADUATE

We believe that God calls every Christian to become competent to disciple and counsel one another (Romans 15:14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11). As part of Cornerstone Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Training Center (CDBC), we desire to equip you with biblical content, Christlike character, and counseling competence all in the context of the local church. Whether you desire to be part of the formal counseling ministry or the informal discipleship that takes place daily in Cornerstone, our goal is that when you have completed CDBC, you will be equipped to counsel yourself and to others with the Word of God. We seek to accomplish this by the head, heart, hands, home (or the 4 C's of content, character, competence, and the local church) model found in Romans 15:14, "And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another."

Four Dimensions of Comprehensive Biblical Counseling Training

Biblical Content/ Head	"filled with all knowledge"
Christlike Character/ Heart	"full of goodness"
Counseling Competence/ Hands	"able to admonish one another"
Local Church/ Home	"Brothers/one another"

Biblical Content/Head – Throughout the training, we will focus on God's Word and what it says about biblical counseling, discipleship and other major theological topics. Through in-depth study of the Bible we will discover a practical and biblical theology of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, man, sin, suffering, salvation, problems and their solutions, sanctification, etc. We also seek to develop biblical insight and wisdom for biblical counseling. This is accomplished by lectures, by reading the Bible and other required texts, and by completing the ACBC Counselors and Theology Exams.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH BIBLICAL COUNSELING

PROFILE OF A CDBC GRADUATE

As a graduate of CDBC you should be able to answer yes to the following questions. Are you able to articulate the fundamental doctrines covered in class with conviction? Is your doctrine in line with Cornerstones Doctrinal statement? Are you able to instruct others with biblical knowledge on the major counseling issues covered in class? With topics and issues not taught or talked about, are you able to go to the Scriptures to find hope? 1 Tim 1:3-11; 3:15; 4:6, 16; 2 Tim 1:13

Christlike Character/Heart – Throughout the training, we will apply God's Word to our own suffering and struggles with sin by relating truth to our lives. This personal application will take place during the lectures, homework, peer counseling as well as in the Personal Improvement Project which will be discussed every week. Each week we will devote half of the class to applying the truths of Scripture. We will experience biblical counseling so that we become mature Christians who are more effective biblical counselors.

As a graduate of CDBC you should be able to appropriately answer the following questions. What sins do you need to repent of? How do you need to gain a better understanding of your heart? How do you need to grow in the put off of sin and put on of righteousness? Do you understand your sin? Are you convicted by it and actually repent and change? Are you able to help someone else understand idolatry in the heart? Jer 17:9; Prov 4:23; Matt 12:34; James 4:1-3

Counseling Competence/Hands – Through your reading, lectures, and ministry projects, you will be trained in the application of God's Word in order to speak truth in love (Ephesians 4:11-16) in the life of a fellow believer. You will also be required to either disciple or counsel someone each week during the entirety of the course.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH BIBLICAL COUNSELING

PROFILE OF A CDBC GRADUATE

As a graduate of CDBC you should be able to show your competence of the Word and how you are able give instruction. Do you know how to disciple? How do you need to become a better disciple maker? How are you becoming a doer of the word and better able to speak truth into someone's life. Are you a model to others of how to serve in the church and how to come along side of others to help carry their burdens? Gal 6:2; 1 Thess 5:14; Col 1:28

Local Church/Home – All of this is done in the local church. There is no such thing as biblical counseling done apart from a local church. Even in training we will teach you about the church and its relationship to biblical counseling.

As a graduate of CDBC how are you involved into the life of the church? Remember that discipleship happens within the context of the local church. Do you understand the importance of the church for whom Christ died? Do you have a love for and a passion for the local church? Can you help others see the value and importance of the local church? Do you understand that all discipleship and counseling is to be done within the local church? Eph 4:1-16; 1 Tim 3:15

CORNERSTONE DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING CENTER

STUDENT APPLICATION



After reading the other information and after counting the cost, please fill out the following application.

Today's Date _____

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

City, State,

ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Work or Cell

Phone _____

E-mail _____ Spouse's Name

Children

☐ Male ☐ Female

Marital Status ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Separated ☐ Widowed

If divorced or separated, please elaborate below under "Additional Comments."

Home Church _____ Denomination

Pastors Name _____ Church

website _____

Is your pastor aware that you are taking these classes? If not, why not? _____

Have you read the Cornerstone doctrinal statement? (you can read this on the website

cornerstonejh.com) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have any disagreements? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, with what?

If you maintain those disagreements, do you commit to not teach or advocate any view contrary to that of Cornerstone Church in order to maintain a spirit of loving, humble unity (while attending Cornerstone Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Training Center) that is worthy and representative of the gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:10-31, Ephesians 4:2-3)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

BY signing below, I understand that as a result of receiving this training at Cornerstone Discipleship and Biblical Counseling Training Center, I will not hold Cornerstone Church accountable or responsible for my misuse or abuse (either in your counseling or training) of the methods and techniques that were taught. I also acknowledge that just because I completed this training, this does not automatically mean that I can advertise myself as a “trained” counselor in Cornerstone church or any other church. Nor does this mean that I will automatically qualify for ACBC certification.

Signature _____

Please answer the following questions:

Core points of the gospel:



How and when I believed in the Gospel:

Changes that have occurred because I embraced Christ as Lord:

Current battles to put off sin and put on righteousness in my life:



What you hope to learn from these classes and reasons for attending:

Current ministries you are serving in or have served in:

Additional Information:

CORNERSTONE DISCIPLESHIP AND BIBLICAL COUNSELING TRAINING CENTER

STUDENT APPLICATION


