



ABC MEMBERSHIP AND CERTIFICATION

The **Association of Biblical Counselors** is an organization made up of pastors, licensed counselors and psychologist, psychiatrists, teachers, nurses, and any believer interested in the work of biblical counseling and discipleship. ABC holds the Bible as our supreme authority for understanding mankind, human motivation, problems in living, emotional and mental difficulty, the purpose of life, as well as the means and purpose of human transformation. The commitment of ABC is to develop individuals and churches to offer rich biblical ministry as it pertains to all aspects of the human experience.

In an effort to fulfill our ministry obligations to equip the local church, the **Association of Biblical Counselors** has developed a certification program for individuals who are interested in developing as Christians and as helpers within the Body of Christ. We do not consider biblical counseling a practice exclusive to pastors or those who hold a license in counseling, rather we consider counseling from Scripture to be a work to which all Christians are called. According to the Bible, it was Jesus who commissioned all of his followers to this work:

“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’” (Matthew 28:18-20).

According to Dr. John Henderson (2008), “The activities of the body of Christ on earth are to funnel in this preordained and well instructed direction, ‘make disciples of all nations.’ Every person recreated by Christ is recreated in order to bear Him fruit, ‘My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples’ (John 15:8). It is for this basic purpose that we exist. It is for this basic reason that we remain on the earth” (p. 21).

The CCE Executive Director, Dr. Bob Kellemen articulates, “One of the problems with the way we have defined biblical counseling is that we have made it about problem-solving. We’ve made it a sub-set of discipleship focused on reactive work with persons struggling with sin. Instead, we should think of biblical counseling as another word for comprehensive personal discipleship. Biblical counseling is focused one-another ministry designed to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.”

It is from this shared conviction that (ABC) now offers training and certification to its members: it is a means to fulfill the Great Commission of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Following are the levels of membership and certification:



I. General Membership: Member of ABC

Level One membership is an open membership to anyone interested in learning more about biblical counseling. Members will have access to 100s of downloadable counseling resources, a weekly newsletter with counseling tips, a bi-monthly eJournal, and full access to the ABC website. Individuals at this level may or may not adhere to the views of biblical counseling, but will have an interest in learning how to more effectively apply the Bible to every issue of life. Is a person desires to pursue certification through the Association of Biblical Counselors, he/she is required to be a member in good standing.

Cost: \$99/Yr

II. Level One: Basic Certification (Basic Certified Member)

Basic Certification is for those individuals who have completed all training requirements for this level in such a manner that is satisfactory to the standards of ABC. Upon completing courses for basic certification, members will:

1. Develop a biblical philosophy of the Christian life that incorporates the active involvement of the community of believers.
2. Develop a biblical philosophy of counseling that emphasizes the call of all believers to take part in the work of counseling and discipleship.
3. Understand the basic meaning of biblical counseling.
4. Acquire a basic understanding of the general and specific methods of biblical counseling.
5. Cover various counseling related issues that include marriage, depression, anger, anxiety, addiction, homosexuality, blended families, and parenting.

Requirements

1. Current General Membership Status
2. Completed ABC Certified Training Application
3. Application Approval Form Completed and Signed by ABC Representative
4. Part One:
 - Your Walk With God Is A Community Project: DVD (4.5 Hours)
5. Part Two (Two Semesters)
 - Equipped to Counsel (Two Semesters)
6. *How to Care Like Christ* Seminar (One Day)
7. 5 Continuing Education Credits per year (to maintain certification **once complete**).

Tuition Cost: \$350

Leader Book Cost: \$45

DVD Cost: \$39.95 (Your Walk With God Is A Community Project)



III. Level Two: Advanced Certification: (Advanced Certified Member)

Advanced Certification is granted when individuals complete required advanced courses in biblical counseling. This phase of certification is highly experiential, and pushes the counselor to engage consistently and frequently in biblical counseling while offering objective means of evaluation to the instructor or proctor. Proctors and/or instructors must be experienced in biblical counseling. The advanced certification is designed to help counselors:

- Develop advanced skills in biblical conceptualization of counseling issues.
- Develop advanced skills in biblical methods to address counseling issues.
- Develop in spiritual maturity as counselor's own heart is exposed throughout the counseling process.
- Broaden the counselor's knowledgebase of Scripture as it relates to life and struggles.
- Learn how to depend on the Holy Spirit during the process of change.
- Develop a genuine love for others.
- Develop skills in listening.
- Develop skills in counseling relationship
- Develop an active prayer life for those they counsel.

Requirements

1. Maintain current membership with ABC.
2. Completed Basic or Level One Certification.
3. Spiritual Friends Seminar (Pre-Conference Training or Scheduled Intensive Labs)
4. 50-Hours Practical Experience: This will be designed with ETC journals as part of the process.
5. 10-Hours of Supervision
6. 5 Continuing Education Credits per year (to maintain certification once complete)

Tuition Cost: \$350

IV. Level Three: Certified Instructor

Requirements

1. *Equipping Counselors for the Local Church: The 4E Ministry Training Strategy*
2. For Level Three Certification, individuals have to have completed Levels 1 and 2.
3. For Level Three Certification, individuals have to attend the one-day 4E MTS seminar.
4. For Level Three Certification, individuals have to receive 4E Consulting as they launch an actual biblical counseling ministry in their church.

These Churches become eligible for listing in the Biblical Counseling Network

Tuition Cost: \$350



V. Continuing Education

One aspect of membership and certification is that of maintaining a strong awareness of current literature and training opportunities as biblical counselors. Following are several options for continuation education through ABC.

Continuing Education (on-line)

1. What Did You Expect (DVD and Book)
2. Good and Angry (DVD)
3. Getting to the Heart of Parenting (DVD and Age of Opportunity)
4. Portrait of a Struggle (DVD and Broken Down House)
5. Lost In The Middle (DVD and Book): Midlife
6. God's Healing in Life's Losses (Book): Grief

Continuing Education (Live)

1. Married Life
2. Foundations of Biblical Counseling
3. ABC Conference
4. Biblical Counseling Forums