

Biblical Counseling ACBC Theology Exam

CASE QUESTION #11

Question 11:

Describe what you believe to be the role of confidentiality in biblical counseling. What kind of commitment to confidentiality should a biblical counselor make? What theoretical and practical considerations limit confidentiality? What is the responsibility of a biblical counselor to report to civil authorities on matters of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other illegal matters? How should biblical counselors cooperate with the authorities about these things?

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

I must not gossip about this person to others –

- Proverbs 6:16-19
- Proverbs 11:13
- Ephesians 4:29

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

I must not slander this person to others –

- Proverbs 11:13
- Proverbs 30:10
- James 4:11

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

I may need counsel in my counsel –

- Proverbs 15:22
 - Proverbs 11:14
 - Proverbs 24:6
-

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

Wisdom in abundance of counselors.

- Proverbs 17:17
- Galatians 6:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

If they have sinned against someone they need to confront the person -

Matthew 5:23-24

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

If they continue in unrepentant sin -

Matthew 18:15-20

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

If it is a sexual sin, sexual abuse or physical abuse -

Romans 13:1-5

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

If the law is being broken, continuing criminal activity (embezzlement, robbery, etc.) –

Romans 13:1-5

Biblical Principles to keep in mind as you counsel:

If the counselee is at risk of self-harm and especially suicide
or is a risk to harm others:

Exodus 20:13 (you shall not murder)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (body is a temple)

Item B from the *ACBC Standards of Conduct*, Section X
"Commitment to Integrity" gives us crucial context:

*Biblical counselors protect the reputation of their coun-
seling ministry by avoiding reckless and unnecessary disclosures of pe-
rsonal information. Biblical counselors must also make clear
to counselees that a commitment to biblical authority re-
quires the disclosure of certain kinds of information to certain
parties.*