

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Sustaining, Guiding, Reconciling, Healing

Rev. Irvin J. Banta, BS, M.Div., D.Min., A.A.C.C.

I want to thank you for considering this pastoral office for counseling support. As a professionally degreed nouthetic counselor and denominationally certified Chaplain, my primary goal in this ministry is to provide the most professional and effective Christian counseling possible while promoting the counselee's overall emotional and spiritual well-being. In counseling I attempt to base all that I do or say upon historical Christian pastoral care strategies and Biblical teachings.

Credentials: I have an earned Doctoral degree from Trinity College and Theological Seminary, majoring in Biblical counseling. I have an earned Master of Divinity from Samford University where I concentrated in theology and pastoral care. I also received a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia College. As a twenty-two year military professional, I have over ten years of military experience in individual and marriage and family counseling. I was licensed and ordained as a Baptist minister in the spring of 1991, and received endorsement as a professional Law Enforcement Chaplain that same year. I am a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC), as well as the International Conference of Police Chaplains and the National Sheriff's Association, Chaplain Division. I am certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) and Debriefing (CISD); as well as instructor qualified in Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention training (SHARP). Additionally, I am certified to administer and score individuals on the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis (T-JTA). A resume detailing other credentials is available upon request.

Confidentiality: All counseling activities, records and identification information will remain confidential. Clergymen have traditionally upheld the cherished religious belief of privileged communications (Seal of the Confessional) between the clergy person and the individual counselee when such persons seek to make a confession, seek spiritual counsel or comfort, or seek help or advise in connection with marital problems. The State of Alabama recognized clergy confidentiality when it adopted the statute: **Ala. Code 12-21-166**. Note: This statute specifically protects clergy involved in the resolution of marital difficulties. This privilege is extended both to the party seeking help and to the clergyman. This statute was supported and further defined in 1996 by **Rules of Evidence #550**. Essentially, confidential communication (with respect to clergy) means that either the person being counseled or the clergyman has the privilege to refuse to disclose and to prevent the other from disclosing, in a legal or quasi-legal proceeding, anything said by either party during their counseling session. Some limits to confidentiality do apply. These limits involve when the Clergyman deems a counselee to be in danger of bringing harm to him/herself or others, or if the counselee grants disclosure of information through a signed release form.