

Dear Prospective Counselee,

I am very happy that you are interested in my ministry in counseling. My normal times for counseling are Tuesday afternoons, Tuesday evenings (no third Tuesday evening), Saturday mornings, and infrequently Wednesday afternoons (3-5 PM) Frequently people ask me to counsel other times and days. *I will do emergency counseling other times and days as time and situations allow*, but I cannot make long term commitments to counseling other times and days. The reasons are several.

First, in order for me to meet all of my many responsibilities here at Central Baptist Church, it is imperative that I schedule time for them in a routine and systematic manner. I have found that if I continually re-arrange my schedule for counselees, my other responsibilities begin to suffer. In addition, I'm not at my best for counseling. In order for me to function at my best and accomplish my other responsibilities well, I need to compartmentalize my work schedule, including counseling.

Second, I have counseled for over 20 years. I have found that if counselees won't commit to making counseling a priority by rearranging their priorities, they almost never complete counseling homework or make any kind of progress. If you need serious help, you won't find it by a casual commitment. Counselees who are willing to work hard to rearrange their schedules if necessary are the ones who commit the most to the process and consequently make the best progress.

Third, I value time with my wife and my children. I do have certain times that I am committed to be available to them and those time periods *not* available for regular counseling. If I will help my counselees do well, I must be committed to do well in this arena of my life (1 Timothy 3:4,5).

Once again, please note that *emergencies are exceptions to all the above* (I reserve the right to define what an emergency is). I can and will make emergency appointments on very short notice on other times and days of the week, and I am even willing to consider "walk-ins." Somewhat like a trip to the emergency room, once you are stabilized, you would be expected to continue counseling on a normalized counseling schedule.

I am glad that you have sought out biblical counseling. With your commitment to biblical principles and hard work, we can see great things accomplished in your life.

Grace!

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