

Dear Friends:

My name is Reverend Alvin L. Powell. I am a professional, Licensed Pastoral Counselor with training in individual, family, pre-marital, marriage and temperament counseling. I am also a board Certified Temperament Counselor. I want to share some information about myself and what I do in counseling so you can make a fully informed decision about using my service.

First and foremost, I am a Christian counselor licensed through the National Christian Counselors Association). As a Christian counselor I believe that hiding our beliefs and trying to do value-free counseling is both unwise and impossible to do, so I want you to know what my important values and beliefs are.

Like most counselors, I recognize that personal problems can come about because of physiology, social-environmental influences and psychological pressures.

I also, believe that many problems can be spiritual in nature, resulting from either not understanding biblical truth or from sinful behavior. I also believe that individuals are created in God image and can only feel complete and fulfilled through relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Thus, Christian counseling, as opposed to other kinds of counseling is very concerned with the spiritual as well as the emotional and physical needs of clients. The main goal of Christian counseling, like the goal of Christian living, is to enable clients to move toward greater emotional and spiritual health by becoming more like Christ.

As a Christian counselor, I am not limited to psychological techniques or to my own human effort and wisdom. I believe that God is the real authority in counseling and He gives us the resources to change. I believe that counseling without the JESUS FACTOR is about as effective as applying a band-aide over a bacteria-infested wound. I believe counseling should involve praying about the client's difficulties and looking to the authority of the Bible for guidance. In this way, I seek to encourage clients to build a dependency on God. The client can find forgiveness for the past, strength and comfort for the present, and hope for the future by trusting the Lord to meet daily needs and healing emotional wounds. I try to reflect the character of Jesus Christ and to love my clients as He does. While I do not try to force *religion* on my clients, I do urge them to develop a RELATIONSHIP with the only true Healer of the body, soul and spirit, JESUS CHRIST.

Along with being a Christian counselor, I am a husband, a father, a licensed minister and, a professional. I bring extensive life experiences to the counseling relationship. I am sensitive to the many dilemmas we face, and I am trained to identify and assist in navigating through the process of obtaining wholeness and clarity. My education and life experiences encompasses a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Management with over 25 years engaged in high level management with some of the largest corporations at the world. Also, I am a licensed Christian minister and a Master of Arts Degree in Christian Clinical Counseling (candidate). My primary ministerial focus the past 10 years has been on marriage and relationship counseling.

Disclaimer: Reverend Alvin L. Powell has been named a Licensed Pastoral Counselor, Professional Clinical Member of the National Christian Counselors Association. He is a NCCA Certified Temperament Counselor as well as a Certified Pastoral Member of the Sarasota Academy of Christian Counselors. Reverend Alvin L. Powell, is not, nor intends to portray himself as a state licensed therapist, counselor, mental health, psychologist, psychiatrist, marriage therapist, or any other state licensed mental health professional titled under the Maryland Board of Examiners or any other state or federal government licensing authority. His authority is through the church and National Christian Counselors Association as a licensed minister.

Rev. Alvin L. Powell