

Network of Christian Counselors Belief Statement

What do NICCI Christian counselors believe?

1. A NICCI counselor believes that ***Jesus is Lord and that God has raised Him from the dead***. This flows naturally from what the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10:9, where he says that “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” This means that Jesus is *master*, not merely one used to support one’s own personal opinions, and it means that the Resurrection is an actual, historical event.
2. A NICCI counselor believes that ***the Bible is a completely trustworthy source of information for directing one’s life*** (see II Timothy 3:16). The Bible is true and is the only written revelation from and about God. NICCI encourages the use of commentaries and various Bible helps, but only the Bible itself is authoritative and fully reliable.
3. A NICCI counselor ***is in agreement with those things that have been generally accepted by all Christians everywhere and throughout history***. There are many details about which sincere Christians disagree, but those beliefs and practices which Christians have always held in common are seen as essential. NICCI follows the saying, “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” We look to our Christian faith to bring us together into one family, regardless of which particular branch of the Christian family tree is our own.
4. A NICCI counselor believes that “***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever***” (see Hebrews 13:8). Christ does not change, and His universal truth is a constant that does not change with time or culture.
5. Even though a NICCI counselor has deep personal convictions about the Christian faith, the NICCI counselor ***does not attempt to impose his or her own personal beliefs on other people***. Freedom of conscience for every person is always respected. In those rare cases where the counselor feels that differences in personal beliefs may be interfering with the success of a client’s therapy, the counselor may recommend another counselor with whom the client feels more in common.
6. A NICCI counselor subscribes to the standards of the American Association of Christian Counselors, including its Doctrinal Statement, the Code of Ethics, and the Biblical-Ethical Foundations for the Code. In large part, this endorsement is because the AACC provides an effective nationwide positive voice for Christian counselors in an establishment which has historically been anti-religious. While that antagonism has been greatly reduced in recent years, there remains considerable tension in some areas between the secular consensus and the historical Christian point of view. The AACC helps Christian counselors to minister as an expression of their personal faith within the prevailing professional codes of ethics without compromising their own integrity.
7. The AACC Doctrinal Statement and the Foundations are printed below. The complete Code of Ethics, which every Christian counselor associated with NICCI is encouraged to study in detail, is available from NICCI or at <http://www.aacc.net/about-us/>.