

Founders

Josh & Cassie Spurlock

Josh Spurlock, MA, LPC, LMHC, CST, has a BA in Biblical Languages and a Masters in Counseling. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), holding licenses in Missouri, Colorado, and Florida. He is also a Certified Sex Therapist (CST), Level 2 AEDP Therapist, and an Ordained Minister.

Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God;

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory;

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful humanity, regeneration by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ is absolutely essential;

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life;

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they who are saved unto the resurrection of life and they who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation;

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

The Theology Behind NICC

Theologically NICC's understanding draws from Evangelical theologians such as Wayne Grudem, Stanley Horton, Dallas Willard, Gordon Fee, F.F. Bruce, Harold Hoehner, William Klien, Craig Blomberg, J. Scott Duvall, J. Daniel Hays, Thomas Schreiner, D.A. Carson, Darrell Bock, Douglas Moo, Craig Keener, N.T. Wright, and study resources including the BDAG lexicon, TDNT, TDOT, NIGTC, Dictionary of Paul

and His Letters, and others of this tradition. We also look to contemplative Christian practices of spiritual formation and direction influenced by Ignatius of Loyola and others.

The following list represents a brief bibliography of theological writings that influence Neuroscience Informed Christian Counseling® (NICC). The list is not exhaustive and does not represent an embrace or endorsement of every perspective taken by the authors:

Systematic Theology, Second Edition: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine by Wayne Grudem

Introduction to Biblical Interpretation: 3rd Edition by William W. Klein, Craig L. Blomberg, Robert L. Hubbard, Jr.

Grasping God's Word, Fourth Edition: A Hands-On Approach to Reading, Interpreting, and Applying the Bible by J. Scott Duvall, J. Daniel Hays

The Other Half of Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation by Jim Wilder, Michel Hendricks

Neuroscience Informed Christian Counseling (NICC)

NICC theory and practice is grounded in the scientific research of mental health over the past one hundred years and the study of God over the preceding six plus millennia.

MyCounselor holds a fundamental belief in the intelligent design of the nervous system by the creator God of the Bible. This serves as the starting place for NICC's conceptual model and the lens through which the findings of neuroscience and psychological research findings are interpreted.

NICC theory is an exercise in *neurotheology* that finds its practical application in Christian discipleship and counseling. Neurotheology, a term coined by Jim Wilder, is a niche of study integrating the disciplines of Christian theology and neurobiology, with the conviction that both the Bible and the nervous system are authored by the same Creator. As such, both scientific research and biblical study can be trustworthy sources of truth that, when interpreted correctly, find no conflict with each other.

Constitution of Humanity

NICC holds to a dichotomous understanding of the human constitution consisting of the body and soul.

We postulate that just as the body has been created by God, He as our Creator has endowed the body with a set of unique instructions for how each cell of the body is to be built, the soul has an analogous 'DNA' for the unfolding of the person's spiritual design(1).

Within the DNA of the soul are the plans for the specific and unique talents, giftings, and reflections of our Creator each human possesses for fulfilling their created purpose, including the good works planned for them before the world began[2].

Energizing both the physical and spiritual DNA is the very breath or life force of God, animating all things [3]. This force compels the sperm to move towards the egg, for chromatids to line up in synapsis, creating a new unique set of DNA, and then for one cell to divide into two, and on and on until an entire body is built according to God's design. The same force energizes the core brain structures that filter and shape perceptions expressing temperament and, setting the direction for brain development as it builds personality. It stokes curiosity, compels learning and development, and moves us toward healing when something goes wrong.

This energizing life force expression of the Creator that moves us physically and spiritually towards actualizing our created potential, the breath of God in biblical terms, NICC calls the *Thrive Drive*.

[1] Detailed discussion of the essential nature of man is beyond the scope of this text, see Grudem, 1994.

[2] Ephesians 1:1-23, 2:10, 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 8:29, 12:4-8; Luke 19:11-27; Jeremiah 1:4-5, 29:11; Psalm 100:3, 139:1-24; Isaiah 44:2,24, 46:10, 49:1-5; Galatians 1:15-16; Job 10:8-12, 31:15; Genesis 1:26-27

[3] Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 37:4-14; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:4-14; Job 32:8, 33:4;

American Association of Christian Counselors Code of Ethics

BIBLICAL-ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE AACC ETHICS CODE

1st FOUNDATION: Jesus Christ—and His revelation in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible as the inspired Word of God—is the pre-eminent model for Christian counseling practice, ethics, caregiving activities and the final authority for all matters about which it speaks.

2nd FOUNDATION: Christian counseling maintains a committed, intimate, and dedicated relationship with the worldwide church, and individual counselors with a local body of believers.

3rd FOUNDATION: Christian counseling, at its best, is a Spirit-led process of change, transformation and growth, geared to help others mature in Christ by the skillful synthesis of counselor-assisted spiritual, psychosocial, familial, biomedical, and environmental interventions.

4th FOUNDATION: Christian counselors are dedicated to Jesus Christ as their "first love," to excellence in client service, to ethical integrity in practice, and to respect for everyone encountered.

5th FOUNDATION: Christian counselors accord the highest respect to biblical revelation regarding the sanctity and defense of human life, the dignity of human personhood, and the sanctity of marriage and family life.

6th FOUNDATION: The biblical and constitutional rights to Religious Freedom, Free Speech, and Free Association, protect Christian counselor public identity, and the explicit incorporation of spiritual practices into all forms of counseling and intervention.

7th FOUNDATION: Christian counselors are mindful of their representation of Christ and His church as Ambassadors of Reconciliation and are dedicated to honor their commitments and obligations in all social and professional relationships.