

Christian Academy of Natural Health

INTRO TO CLINICAL HERBOLOGY

Introduction

This course will introduce you to the history and practice of Christian Clinical Herbology. The goal of this course is to help you organize what you learn into a framework of Biblical whole health care principles and practice.

What is a Christian?

The very first step to understanding Christian Clinical Herbology is to understand what a Christian is and is not.

"Christian" was the name given to the disciples of Jesus by the gentiles of Antioch. Christian means "belonging to Christ" - but some scholars believe it was given to the followers of Jesus to mean "little Christs". In other words, the non-believers were mocking the Antioch followers of Christ by calling them a bunch of "little Christs" for trying to be like Jesus.

A Christian is a Bible and Christ believing person who has accepted and received Jesus as his/her personal Lord and Savior. Christians are people who have sincerely come to acknowledge and confess their sinful nature and imperfections to God through Jesus Christ. Christians have repented of their sins and have been baptized and continue to grow together in a local church body according to the commands of Jesus. Christians place their faith in Jesus Christ alone based on the reliability and truth of God's Word.

Some Christians come to Jesus from a personal experience or sense of calling. Other Christians come to Jesus after much thought and research (the skeptics). There is no right or wrong way to become a Christian ... the important thing is that a person SINCERELY accepts, receives, and acknowledges (with a broken and contrite heart) Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Christians understand that salvation is a free gift from God and cannot be earned. Christians obey and work for God because they want to - not because they have to.

As a Christian, a person grows and matures to become more like Jesus (emotional health). Along the way to spiritual maturity (sanctification), some Christians will fall and stumble because of the innate sin nature and the temptations of this fallen world. True Christians realize and admit that they are sinners and are lost without God's help - but Christians get better as they grow and mature in the love, grace, and power of Jesus Christ.

As a Christian matures, God uses the growing Christian to do His will through evangelism, teaching, preaching, and other good works (based on the fruits of the Spirit). The Christian Clinical Herbalist is a mature Christian who obeys God's calling to a whole health and healing ministry using God's Word and medicinal herbs to bring people to Christ and to Biblical wholeness. Christian Clinical Herbology is a wholistic health care alternative to New Age herbalism and Eastern philosophies.

Clinical

The word "clinical" in Christian Clinical Herbology relates to the direct questioning, observation, assessment and follow up of a person seeking Christian Clinical Herbology services. The priorities of the Christian Clinical Herbalist are: spiritual health, emotional health, and physical health. The Christian Clinical Herbalist is not a licensed doctor and does not prescribe "medicines". The Christian Clinical Herbalist recommends the best herbal therapeutics for a given health situation based on a series of whole health assessments with an emphasis on preventive health care. A Christian Clinical Herbalist also teaches about natural health improving herbs, diets, life styles, and attitudes based on study, research, Biblical guidance, and experience.

Herbology

Herbology simply means the study of herbs. In the case of Christian Clinical Herbology, the study is focused on herbs that have traditionally and scientifically been shown to contain health promoting and medicinal value. The Christian Clinical Herbalist knows the scientific name, traditional use, safety, clinical studies, dosages, contraindications, drug interactions, and other in-depth information of each medicinal herb that he or she uses to help others heal and stay healthy.

A Christian Herbalist must continue to be a mature and active member of a Bible believing Christian church and be called and lead by the Holy Spirit to a whole health and healing ministry (based on desire, interest, passion, and hard work).

In addition, a Christian Herbalist must study hard and be committed to a lifelong pursuit of medicinal herbology continuing education and practice. As a certified Christian herbalist and active member of the Christian Natural Health Network, your clients will be assured that you are committed and serious about your natural health care and healing ministry.

It is important to note that Christian herbology is not New Age herbalism. New Age herbalism is the use of medicinal herbs under a non-Christian philosophy, world-view, and practice. New Age herbalism worships the plants and the earth (gaia) rather than the God of the Holy Bible. In addition, many forms of New Age herbalism deny the value of scientific research and modern knowledge. Some forms of New Age herbalism are directly involved in the occult and use eastern based spiritual "energy" methodologies that open the door to potential demonic influence. This makes New Age based herbalism incompatible with Christian Clinical Herbology. Christians seeking complimentary natural health care must be very careful not to seek advice or recommend treatments from New Age based practitioners.

Summary

A Christian Clinical Herbalist is a mature Christian who is called to a natural health healing ministry. Christian Clinical Herbalists study and practice in a clinical setting to teach and assist people to obtain **spiritual, emotional, and physical** health through the use of proper diet, lifestyle changes, herbal therapeutics, and other natural health

care modalities. The Christian Clinical Herbalist views each person as God sees them - as a living soul that God loves very much. The Christian Clinical Herbalist is committed to the career long study, teaching, and practice of Bible based whole health care and wellness.

This concludes this course lesson sample.