

# **Biblical Life Ministries Code of Ethical Conduct**

## **Preamble**

As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the gospel and gifted by the Spirit as a minister of the church, I dedicate myself to conduct my ministry according to the ethical guidelines and principles set forth in this code of ethics, in order that my ministry be acceptable to God, my service be beneficial to the Christian community, and my life be a witness to the world.

## **Code of Conduct**

- I will maintain my physical and emotional health through regular exercise, good eating habits, and the proper care of my body.
- I will nurture my devotional life through a regular time of prayer, reading of the Scriptures, and meditation.
- I will continue to grow intellectually through personal study, comprehensive reading, and attending growth conferences.
- I will manage my time well by properly balancing personal obligations, church duties, and family responsibilities, and by observing a weekly day off and an annual vacation.
- I will be honest and responsible in my finances by paying all debts on time, never seeking special gratuities or privileges, giving generously to worthwhile causes, and living a Christian lifestyle.
- I will be truthful in my speech, never plagiarizing another's work, exaggerating the facts, misusing personal experiences, or communicating gossip.
- I will seek to be Christ-like in attitude and action toward all persons regardless of race, social class, religious beliefs, or position of influence within the church and community.
- I will maintain a private lifestyle that glorifies God and inspires those around me to live godly also.
- I will not drink alcoholic beverages or use tobacco so that I may be free to minister freedom to those bound by them.
- I will be fair to every member of my family, giving them the time, love, and consideration they need.
- I will understand the unique role of my spouse, recognizing his or her primary responsibility is as marital partner and parent to the children, and secondarily as minister of the gospel.
- I will regard my children as a gift from God and seek to meet their individual needs without imposing undue expectations upon them.
- I will seek to be a servant-minister of the mission by following the example of Christ in faith, love, wisdom, courage, and integrity.
- I will faithfully discharge my time and energies as pastor, teacher, preacher, and administrator through proper work habits and reasonable schedules.
- In my preaching responsibilities, I will give adequate time to prayer and preparation, so that my presentation will be biblically based, theologically correct, and clearly communicated.
- In my pastoral counseling, I will maintain strict confidentiality, except in cases where disclosure is necessary to prevent harm to persons and/or is required by law.
- In my evangelistic responsibilities, I will seek to lead persons to salvation and to church membership without manipulating converts, proselytizing members of other churches, or demeaning other religious faiths.
- In my visitation and counseling practices, I will never be alone with a person of another sex unless another church member is present nearby.
- I will endeavor to relate to all ministers, especially those with whom I serve in my mission, as partners in the work of God, respecting their ministry and cooperating with them.
- I will seek to serve my minister colleagues and their families with counsel, support, and personal assistance.
- I will refuse to treat other ministers as competition in order to gain a church, receive an honor, or achieve statistical success.

- I will refrain from speaking disparagingly about the person or work of any other minister, especially my predecessor or successor.
- I will treat with respect and courtesy any predecessor who returns to my mission field.
- I will love, support and cooperate with the faith community of which I am a part, recognizing the debt I owe to my mission for its contribution to my life and my ministry.
- I will work to improve my mission in its efforts to expand and extend the kingdom of God.

This code of conduct is based on a sample taken from the text *Ministerial Ethics: Moral Formation for Church Leaders* co-authored by Joe E. Trull and James E. Carter (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004), 259-263.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to the BLM Code of Conduct and commit myself to live by its principles at all times while I am associated with Biblical Life Ministries.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_