

Section 1:6 Covenant of Lifestyle

Last Updated:	04/15
Applies to:	Administrators, Faculty, Staff
Related Policies:	Employment & Recruiting, Alcohol Policy, Gender Identity Policy

Bethel College faculty and staff have an important normative and formative relationship with the students, which is a vital part of the campus community. They are expected to model the virtues that are central to our mission as a Christian college of the Missionary Church. It is the position of Bethel College and the Missionary Church that the Bible establishes our basic principles for living together as a Christian academic community.

These principles and guidelines are essential and foundational. They are to be performed in a spirit and attitude arising from a deep commitment and belief in their verity. All of these principles assume the recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all of life, and His Word and life as found in the Old Testament and New Testament as our standard to strive for.

The chief motive of all Christian conduct should be to “*love the Lord God with our whole being*” (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*) and “*others as ourselves*” (*Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39*). Righteousness, holiness of life, love and wisdom are to be our goal and pursuit.

As part of our employment agreement at Bethel College, we recognize that Bethel holds the following expectations.

1. To pursue a lifestyle that honors God, and to practice and develop Christian morals and virtues, such as listed in *2 Peter 1:5-8*, “*faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love*” (*NIV*). *1 Peter 4:8* urges us to “*love each other unfailingly and deeply*” (*NIV*). These things make us fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (*Philippians 4:8; 1 Timothy 1:5; Titus 2:5; Hebrews 7:26, 13:4; 1 Peter 5:8*).
2. To be a faithful participant at church so that worship of our Redeemer and Creator stay the central part of our lives (*Psalms 22:22-24; Hebrews 10:25*).
3. To maintain a concerned, professional, positive relationship with students and to avoid any form of racism, exploitation, abuse or harassment toward any member of the college family, thus becoming a co-worker with God in Christ as He brings His people to maturity (*Matthew 20:25; Galatians 6:2; 1 Corinthians 13:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 2 Timothy 2:24*).

4. To recognize that the College community and the Church take a strong position against abortion and see human life as sacred in all instances. Faculty and staff are expected to support this position in any public statements or conversations with students (*Genesis 1:26-28, 5:1-3, 9:6; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10*).
5. To be sexually pure. To avoid any form of sexual activity which the Scripture prohibits, including sexual intercourse outside of marriage or unfaithfulness within marriage. (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Hebrews 13:4*). In fact, to escape the corruption that is in the world and become partakers of God's character (*1 Peter 1:4*).
6. To recognize that marriage is between one man (born male), and one woman (born female) is the instruction of Scripture and sexual expression is to be confined to the marriage relationship. Bethel desires an environment whose people demonstrate behaviors aligned with their birth gender. *See Gender Identity Policy 1.8 for details*
7. To avoid lying and profane language so that our speech may be pure, uplifting and honest, and to avoid attitudes and actions which God condemns as sinful (*Proverbs 6:16-19*), both toward God and toward other persons (*1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7; Colossians 3:23-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:11*).
8. To recognize that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*) and to abstain from any kind of substance abuse (*Proverbs 20:4, 23:20, 31:4; 2 Peter 2:19-20*).
9. To recognize the diverse views regarding the use of alcohol, avoid its abuse (which is most often indicated by intoxication), and refrain from any alcohol consumption while representing Bethel College (*Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3; 1 Corinthians 5:11*). *See Alcohol Policy 1.7 for more details.*
10. To do one's best to use the resources of creation and of Bethel College in a way that is positive and constructive, demonstrating a responsible stewardship of what has been graciously given to us (*Genesis 1:28, 6:12; Revelation 11:18*).