



MINISTERIAL COVENANT OF ETHICS

Ethics define and protect our personal life, family, ministry, and relationships as ministers in Open Bible Churches. These ethics are rooted in the principles of Scripture. A breach of ministerial ethics could result in disciplinary action.

PREAMBLE

As a minister of Jesus Christ, called by God to proclaim the gospel and credentialed by Open Bible Churches, I commit myself to this code of ethics. I make this commitment sincerely and wholeheartedly so my ministry will be acceptable to God, beneficial to my family and church, and a witness to the world.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY

1. I will continue to develop my spiritual life through consistent prayer, Bible reading, and personal application of Scripture.
2. I will seek to maintain balance between family and ministry and will treat my family with love, attention, and respect.
3. I will pursue physical and emotional health through regular exercise, healthy eating habits, and adequate rest.
4. I will be a lifelong learner through the pursuit of educational opportunities and resources.
5. I will steward my personal finances with integrity by promptly paying bills, avoiding excessive debt, preparing for retirement, and by not diverting income to addictive or predatory financial practices such as gambling.
6. I will ensure that what I ingest will not impair my conduct or damage my abilities, relationships, godly influence with others, or testimony as an Open Bible minister.
7. I will abstain from pornography, intoxication, abuse of prescription medications, recreational use of drugs, and tobacco.

CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. When preaching I will prepare and deliver biblically based messages and communicate with honesty, giving credit when using another's material.
2. In counseling I will keep strict confidentiality except to prevent physical harm, harm to the church body, or as required by law.
3. I will use discretion and wisdom with the opposite sex to prevent the appearance of evil, temptation, or sin.
4. I will make sure proper checks and balances are in place, so finances are managed with integrity and in accordance with state and federal laws.
5. I will not loan money to the church or receive a loan from the church or its members without the written consent of the church board and either the district or regional director. (Note: Some state laws forbid non-profits from lending money to corporate officers.)
6. I will inform potential staff members of the church's policy regarding their retention or release in the event of the resignation or release of the lead pastor.
7. I will minister without partiality and not allow a personal relationship to unduly influence the decisions and direction of the church.
8. I will join in marriage only individuals who fulfill biblical guidelines.
9. I will use caution and discretion before choosing to endorse products or agencies. In my capacity as a pastor, I will not endorse political parties or candidates running for public office.

RESPONSIBILITIES TO COLLEAGUES AND OPEN BIBLE LEADERSHIP

1. I will treat all ministerial colleagues, including predecessors, with respect in word and actions.
2. I will work in cooperation with Open Bible leaders and ministers and will resolve conflicts in order to maintain a spirit of unity.
3. I will, upon becoming aware of the serious misconduct of an Open Bible minister, no matter how that knowledge is acquired, contact the regional executive director.
4. I will contact the lead pastor of a church prior to contacting one of his/her staff or members concerning ministry opportunities.



5. I will not start or locate a new church or relocate an existing church without first receiving written consent from the regional executive director.
6. I will not accept an independent pastorate in a city where an Open Bible church exists without first informing the regional executive director.
7. I will not approach or consider an offer from a church whose pastor has not officially resigned.
8. I will, upon leaving a church, cease attending, unless invited by the incoming lead pastor and church board.
9. I will not, upon leaving a church, provide ministry to persons in the church except with the consent of the lead pastor, and I will not exert influence or undermine the leadership of the church.
10. I will treat ministry guests with courtesy, providing adequately for their needs, and I will not invite persons to minister in the church who are under discipline, have questionable character, or have fundamental, doctrinal differences.
11. I will not attempt to unduly influence people to leave other churches.