

Word of Life Standard of Conduct

1. As a Christian organization, WORD OF LIFE Fellowship, Inc., holds a unique position in the world today. It is dedicated to the fact of the Lordship of Christ in all areas of life. The distinctiveness of WORD OF LIFE lies also in its philosophy and goals. Those who are associated with WORD OF LIFE, including Directors, administration, faculty, staff and students, form a community, and are not a group of autonomous individuals. They consequently bear certain responsibilities and obligations within the organization for the implementation of its purposes and goals. In order that the organization may function smoothly and that its goals may be realized, it is necessary that there be mutual commitment to a corpus of regulations which when embraced by all members, involves the willing surrender of certain individual purposes and goals.
2. Since WORD OF LIFE is a Christian organization, we must follow specific Biblical principles which relate to Christian behavior within the organization. WORD OF LIFE, therefore, prohibits practices which are clearly forbidden by the Word of God (for example, 1 Cor. 6:9-20: drunkenness, sexual immorality, dishonesty, etc.) Further, to expect the Christian to exemplify Christian love, consideration for the rights of others, honesty, and a high sense of Christian ethics, is to expect only that which the Word of God teaches to be primary in the character of the Christian (for example, Eph. 4:24-5:8).
3. WORD OF LIFE recognizes the principles of Christian liberty within the sphere of those things which are intrinsically innocent. However, WORD OF LIFE also recognizes that liberty needs to be restricted in certain instances. Scriptural precedent is found for this in Acts 15 and Romans 14, where certain practices inherently innocent were forbidden because they could do spiritual harm to other members of the Christian community.
4. Good verses for Biblical consideration concerning the above paragraph are:

1 Corinthians 6:12	Lawful, but not expedient (not profitable for our good).
1 Corinthians 10:23	Lawful, but not edifying.
1 Corinthians 8:9	Could be a stumbling block.
Romans 1:32	Christians are different, and by living like the world, we approve of it. There should be no pleasure in watching sin.
Ephesians 5:6-7	Don't be deceived with vanity and participate in it.
Colossians 3:17	Make sure it pleases the Lord, not emotions, flesh, or self.
Hebrews 12:1-2	Lay aside weights as well as the sin.
5. WORD OF LIFE rejects the principle that exposure to and/or experimentation with the doubtful and objectionable elements of "life" is essential to the development of moral or intellectual discernment and or discrimination. WORD OF LIFE reserves the privilege to make the final decision for any full-time staff in any questionable area.
6. Certain principles of conduct are believed to be a necessary part of an effort to establish an atmosphere within which the goals of WORD OF LIFE may be realized. For this reason, WORD OF LIFE requires all members of its organization to refrain from the possession or use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, from gambling and the use of traditional playing cards, from narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs (including marijuana), from participation in oath-bound secret organizations (societies), from social dancing of any type, from attendance at the motion picture theater and commercial stage productions. It is further expected that all members of the organization will actively support a local Bible-believing church through service, giving, and allegiance and exercise of Christian discretion and restraint in the choice of entertainment, including radio, television, audio, and visual recordings, the various forms of literature, and observance of the Lord's day.
7. WORD OF LIFE recognizes that observance of these regulations does not comprise the whole of one's responsibility to God and hence does not necessarily indicate that one is living a life of full commitment. The philosophy of WORD OF LIFE, however, maintains that one's willingness to obey these regulations shows a maturity and spiritual concern for the whole Christian community (for example, Gal. 5:13-24).
8. The conduct of any member of the WORD OF LIFE organization that is an offense to good taste, sound morality, or Christian propriety will not be acceptable. While some may not have personal convictions wholly in accordance with the above standard of conduct, the purpose underlying them necessitates the member's honorable obedience to them. If in conscience a member of the organization can no longer in integrity conform to them, he or she should withdraw from WORD OF LIFE. Willful disobedience of the above standards will bring about dismissal from WORD OF LIFE immediately.
9. To insure that the doctrinal position of WORD OF LIFE Fellowship, Inc., will be maintained in an uncompromising manner, and believing that a consistent and exemplary life should be expected of those who undertake the instruction and guidance of Christian youth, it is required that every member of the organization shall individually affirm the above at the time of initial appointment or employment and shall so re-affirm at such time as determined by the Board of Directors.