



## **BIBLICAL GUIDELINES for LIBERTY BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP CHAPLAINS**

### **PREAMBLE**

The LBF Doctrinal Statement lists the basic statements on doctrine by which Baptists order their lives and service.

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains who are certified for endorsement by the Fellowship's Chaplain's Committee stand in special relationship to LBF churches. Because of their unique relationship, the following Biblical Guidelines are provided to chaplains as clarification of the Doctrinal Statement in selected subject areas.

Adherence to these Guidelines and our Doctrinal Statement rests primarily with the chaplain. Herein, the LBF chaplain is bound ethically to honor his well-understood commitment to these Biblical Guidelines, Doctrinal Statement and Contractual Agreement.

The chaplain's personal responsibility does not, however, obviate LBF's institutional responsibility for enforcement.

Occasionally word will come that a chaplain is in violation of one or more of the Biblical Guidelines. In such an event, the Chaplain's Committee desires that the following scenario of actions shall transpire:

- A. Moving from a primary motive of restoring such a one (Gal. 6:1), the Endorsing Agent will meet virtually with the chaplain to ascertain the facts, confront in love, and decide on further needed actions.
- B. If the problem is insoluble through a virtual pastoral visit, or if, in the Endorsing Agent's judgment, the chaplain has disgraced himself or the LBF, the Endorsing Agent will place the matter before the Chaplain's Committee.
- C. If the Committee is convinced of the seriousness of the problem, it may appoint a member to meet with the chaplain for a further attempt at restoration, or it may withdraw endorsement.

## **GUIDELINES**

### **I. Personal Conduct:**

The law of brotherly love expressed in I Corinthians 8:9 and 13 shall be normative for the walk of the LBF chaplain. He shall avoid all conduct which may be a stumbling block to others, such as the use of intoxicating beverages and tobacco, and all other questionable habits and indulgences. He shall uphold the sanctity of the marriage relationship and the home as taught by the Word of God.

You are to minister to all persons regardless of their lifestyle choices, ethnicity, or religious preference. In providing this ministry you are not condoning and or approving of behaviors the Scriptures (Holy Bible) define as sinful. If you are called upon or requested to participate in any such behavior that would harm your testimony or LBF's stance you must refrain/not participate in said function. For example, if you are requested to conduct a marriage ceremony that you believe or LBF would not agree to than you must decline. If you are asked to bless or pray for an event that is contrary to the Word of God than you must decline. If for any reason an event is published as an event that would discredit God's Word, your personal faith or LBF's Doctrinal statement you must decline. Any violation of this could cause LBF to withdraw your endorsement. If you ever feel forced to commit such violations you must contact us immediately.

If at any time you are told you cannot speak/preach on any portion of the Word of God or you believe that your religious liberty has been threatened, we expect that you will inform our office immediately. This has and will be our policy concerning your religious liberty. We, unfortunately, anticipate situations may arise due to misinterpretation of the implementation of an open homosexual military setting.

### **II. Ecumenism:**

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains may not be required to enter into ecumenical worship depending upon the type Ecumenical Worship Service and how it is to be conducted. The key to this area is to be a team player with your other chaplain faiths without compromising your personal faith or LBF.

We recognize the rights and privileges of other religious bodies, but do not desire to enter into ecumenical worship with them.

**III. Baptism:**

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains will baptize only under the specific authority of their sending church and only by immersion (Matthew 3:14-16; Romans 6:3,4). LBF chaplains will refer those whom they baptize to a Christ Centered Church or, if possible, to a Liberty Baptist Fellowship church upon the new believer's change of assignment.

**IV. Lord's Supper:**

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains will administer the Lord's Supper under the authority of their sending LBF church and will only use the elements of bread and non-alcoholic grape juice. They shall be free to invite all who know Christ as their Lord and Savior to partake of the elements after solemn self-examination.

**V. Offerings & Dues:**

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains are considered representatives of their sending churches. Therefore, their primary giving should be given to their sending church.

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains are required to support the fellowship with annual dues collected on a monthly or yearly basis. Additionally, chaplains are encouraged to take chapel and church offerings for LBF. All dues and offerings will be restricted for use to support LBF expenses that are relevant to ensure LBF and LBF chaplains are cared for and supported.

**VI. Marriage:**

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains will exercise prayerful judgment in the performance of marriages, seeking God's will in each case, always endeavoring to be in obedience to God's Word. Three biblical principles are particularly pertinent.

- A. Marriage is between one man and one woman (Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5; Eph 5:31; Lev 18:22).
- B. Marriage is to be between a man and woman of like faith. II Cor. 6:14; I Cor. 7:39; I Cor. 10:21; and Eph. 5:6-11, set forth the LBF principle, "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers." Therefore, chaplains should examine carefully the spiritual condition of those who request marriage.
- C. Marriage is a covenant relationship and should be ended only by death of a spouse. However, two biblical exceptions are given in Scripture for divorce and possible remarriage (Matt. 5:31-32; Matt. 19:3-11; Mark 10:2-12; and I Cor. 7:1-16). Herein, It will be the chaplain's Christian judgment and prayer on marrying divorced persons. Where exceptions are felt to be justified, however, LBF chaplains should remarry only persons whose divorces are considered to be Scripturally valid, as the chaplain prayerfully applies his best judgment to each situation.



# Liberty Baptist Fellowship

I understand and agree with the biblical guidelines listed above.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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