

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

## **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 Chaplains 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.

Enforcement of adherence to the Doctrinal Statement and Guidelines is lodged primarily with the chaplain himself. He is carefully selected. He signs a covenant and a contractual agreement, agreeing to abide by both before being certified for endorsement. Thus, the LBF chaplain is bound ethically to honor his well-understood commitment to the Doctrinal Statement and Biblical Guidelines.

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 Chaplains 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 visit the chaplain to ascertain the facts, confront in love, and decide on further needed actions.
- B. If the problem is insoluble through a pastoral visit, or if, in the Endorsing Agent's judgement, the chaplain has disgraced himself or LBF, the Endorsing Agent will place the matter before the Chaplains Committee.
- C. If the Committee is satisfied with the seriousness of the problem, it may appoint a member to return with the Endorsing Agent to the chaplain for a further attempt at restoration, or it may constitute a withdraw of endorsement.

The promulgation of these Biblical Guidelines in no way implies that LBF chaplains are expected to watch one another with a view toward "turning in" violators to the LBF. Conversely, a chaplain may feel led to bring a violation to the Fellowship's attention. Neither he nor his action will be disparaged. Rather, his information will receive the same prayerful attention as that coming from other sources.

## **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 might 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 within DOD to include coalition forces if called upon, 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. Marital immorality, homosexuality, and alcohol are examples of this behavior. 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 to 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 threaten, 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 help locate to 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. Tithes and Offerings:**

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains are considered representatives of their sending churches. Therefore, all tithes should be given to their sending church. Any deviation of this guideline must be cleared with the Endorsing Agent.

Liberty Baptist Fellowship chaplains will give an annual offering to Liberty Baptist Fellowship? These offerings will be restricted for use to support LBF expenses that are relevant to ensure LBF and LBF chaplains are cared for and supported. The following is a guide for giving LBF an annual offering:

Chaplain Candidates/Volunteer Chaplains: \$120.00  
Chaplains: \$360.00

You can mail your offering directly to LCPN address and put attention LBF Dept.

**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 the New Testament. Two New Testament principles are particularly pertinent.

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.

Matt. 5:31-32; Matt. 19:3-11; Mark 10:2-12; and I Cor. 7, set forth the New Testament teaching with regard to divorce and remarriage. It will be your Christian judgment and prayer on marrying divorce 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 judgement to each situation.

**VII. Glossalia and Healing:**

LBF will endorse only those chaplains who refrain from the practices of speaking in tongues and conducting public healing services.

I understand and agree with the biblical guidelines listed above.

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