

Biola University is a community of Christians committed to the principles of Christian living found in the Bible and holds that these biblical standards are vital to our individual and corporate relationships. Maintaining these standards contributes to the kind of atmosphere in which quality Christian education and spiritual nurturing can best occur and strengthens the testimony of Biola within both Christian and secular communities. In this light, and given the clear biblical imperative for spiritual self-discipline, the university has established these “standards of conduct” to be observed and upheld by all members of the Biola community.

Consistent with the example and command of Jesus Christ, we believe that life within a Christian community must be lived to the glory of God, with love for God and for our neighbors. Being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we strive to walk by the Spirit, “crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). To this end, members of the Biola community are not to engage in activities that Scripture forbids. Such activities include, but are not limited to, dishonesty, thievery, fornication, adultery, homosexual practice, drunkenness, unscriptural divorce, and the destruction or termination of innocent human life through human intervention in any form after conception including, but not limited to, abortion, infanticide or euthanasia. Scripture also condemns other “deeds of the flesh” such as covetousness, jealousy, pride, and lust—sins that the maturing Christian should put off and replace with “fruit of the spirit:” love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (e.g., Luke 10:27; Galatians 2:20, 5:14-24; Ephesians 2:3; I Corinthians 6:9-10).

As a Christian educational institution, Biola also recognizes the responsibility of its Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff to provide examples of maturing Christian character, conduct, and attitude to its students and the community at large. Therefore, as maturing Christians, the entire Biola community will strive for the holiness of God (I Peter 1:13-19) and love Him with all our hearts, souls, and minds (Matthew 22:37). In addition, we are called to love our friends and neighbors as God has loved us (Matthew 22:39; I John 4:7-11). We will achieve this calling by walking by the power of the Holy Spirit and avoiding sins clearly forbidden in Scripture (Galatians 5:16-21; I Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:1-14). Also, we will pursue the fruit of the Spirit from our Lord, with one another (Galatians 5:22-24).

When the Bible is not clear regarding a specific behavior, we will be guided by our desire to glorify God in our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19-20) and will discern if our behavior will cause any of our brothers or sisters in Christ to stumble in their faith (I Corinthians 8; Romans 14). If our Lord is not glorified or another Christian is harmed or offended by our behavior, then we will freely abstain from that activity, both on and off the campus of Biola. We know that many behaviors are lawful, but not all are profitable (I Corinthians 10:23-33). Therefore, we will constantly be teachable regarding those activities where the Bible is not clear and will evaluate them in light of our pursuit of holiness and love for our Lord and each other.

Our pursuit of holiness and love, a desire to avoid offending another believer, and a desire to abstain from any behavior that would cause our brothers or sisters in Christ to stumble, require that the following activities be prohibited on the Biola campus, at Biola-affiliated functions, or when representing Biola: the use of alcohol, the use of tobacco, and gambling.

These standards apply to the trustees, during their terms of service on the Biola University Board of Trustees, and to faculty and staff, during their terms of employment with Biola University. Biola, therefore, reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any employee who, in its judgment, does not

conform to these conduct standards or to other expressed principles, policies, programs, and expectations of the university governing employee conduct.