

## **Statement of Faith**

Word of Life is a fundamental, Bible-believing organization. Each member of the administration, staff, faculty, and student body of Word of Life subscribe to and are in agreement with this Statement of Faith.

1. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are verbally inspired of God. They are without error in the original writings, and they are the supreme and final authority for faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, Creator, and Sustainer of the universe, who is eternally existent in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the Deity of Jesus Christ; His virgin birth; sinless life; His death to pay the penalty for everyone's sins, His bodily resurrection; His exaltation to God's right hand; and His personal, imminent, pretribulational and premillennial return.
4. We believe that all men have sinned and, therefore, are guilty before God and are under His condemnation.
5. We believe that all who by faith receive Jesus Christ are then born again of the Holy Spirit, therefore children of God and eternally saved, and that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to enlighten, guide, and enable the believer in life, testimony, and service. We believe that God answers the prayers of His people and meets their needs according to His purpose.
6. We believe that God gives spiritual gifts to all believers for the building up of the body of Christ. However, the miraculous sign-gifts of the Spirit, such as tongues and healings, were limited to the early church.
7. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in Hell.
8. We believe that all believers are called into a life of separation from all worldly and sinful practices and alliances.

## **Historicity of Genesis**

Word of Life Bible Institute is committed to the historical and factual accuracy of the book of Genesis. Therefore, we teach a recent creation of the entire universe and all forms of life in the six, 24-hour days of the creation week. We believe that Adam and Eve were the first man and woman and that all of mankind has descended from them and has inherited a sin nature from their fall into sin, resulting in a cursed creation. We believe in a personal Satan who led some of the angels to rebel, enticed Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, and continues to oppose God's program for human history. We believe in a worldwide flood which explains the disappearance of certain species recorded in the fossil record, the subsequent development of mankind from Noah; and the creation of language groups and nations from God's intervention at the Tower of Babel. We believe that Satan's attempt to overthrow God is doomed to fail and that the Lake of Fire has been prepared as a place of eternal conscious punishment for him, his demons, and all humans who reject Christ.

## **Standard of Conduct**

1. As a Christian organization, Word of Life Fellowship, Inc., holds a unique position within 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 a 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 (e.g., 1 Corinthians 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 (e.g., Ephesians 4:24-5:8).

3. Word of Life is firmly committed to a literal understanding of all Biblical statements and rejects any attempt to "reinterpret" Scripture in light of "modern" moral or psychological theories. In the Biblical account of creation, the family was the first societal institution ordained by God (Genesis 1:27; 2:18-22). Furthermore, Scripture plainly declares that the first two humans created by God were a man and a woman (Genesis 1:17; 2:18-22). God joined the man and woman in the holy rite of matrimony and commanded them to be fruitful, multiply, and replenish the earth (Genesis 1:28). Therefore, the only legitimate marriage is the

joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23).

In both the Old and New Testaments, God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Accordingly, all forms of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 13:22; 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

Since Word of Life believes that all sexual activity outside of a marriage between a man and a woman, including homosexual practices, are in direct opposition to God's Word and constitute a direct contradiction to God's institution of the home, Word of Life will not employ men or women who promote or participate in homosexual behavior or other sexual activity outside of marriage.

4. 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.

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, 11 — Do not be deceived with vanity and participate in it.

Colossians 3:17 — Make sure it pleases the Lord, not the 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 the 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 and use of alcoholic beverages and tobacco, from gambling and the use of traditional playing cards, from narcotics and hallucinogenic drugs (including marijuana), from the participation in oath-bound secret organizations (societies), from social dancing of any type, from attendance at the motion picture theatre and commercial stage productions. It is further expected that all members of the organization will exercise Christian discretion and restraint in the choice of entertainment, including radio, television, radio and visual recordings, the various forms of literature and the 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 (e.g., Galatians 5:13-24).

8. The conduct of any member of the Word of Life organization that is an offence 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 statement of standards, 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 following at the time of initial appointment or employment and shall so re-affirm at such time as determined by the Board of Directors.