

Bethel Baptist Youth Code of Conduct

September 2021/ August 2022

*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
(Col. 3.17)*

Purpose for the code of conduct:

- To support a safe and enjoyable environment for all members of our Youth Group.
- To provide clear and explicit expectations for social behaviors in all Youth Group settings.
- Provide leaders, students, and staff with appropriate actions that address student behaviors.

Policy regarding behavior:

Our Code of Conduct rules, and expectations are for all students, leaders, and pastors in church and youth group events and activities. These are common sense expectations built on respect for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. It follows, therefore, that students and leaders must refrain from disrespecting one another, from offensive and abrasive language (or dress), violence against others, from bullying, harassment, carrying any sort of weapons and use of drugs or alcohol. Consequences for students who endanger the youth group and church safety or disrupt the overall youth group experience of others will be handle on an individual basis. This code of conduct applies during youth group on and off-site events. It also applies while on the way to and from youth group, (church vans, the shuttle, or private forms of transportation). Families and guardians are critical to our youth group and church community. We ask that you please read and understand the Code of Conduct and discuss them with your child(ren). We at Bethel Baptist Church understand that you, the parents, and guardians, know the best way to make sure your child(ren) understand the expectations that will lead to a safe and orderly church community. This Code provides definitions of behavioral offenses.

Pastor Ben will be brought in and made aware of any disciplinary action needing attention.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers who have any questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Pastor Jude @ Bethel Baptist Church.

Behavioral Expectations and Responsibilities:

Responsibilities for everyone:

- Respect all members of the youth group and church.
- Maintain a positive climate by being responsible, and cooperative.
- Communicate Code of Conduct expectations for students and staff.
- Motivate students to live up to the expectations of Jesus Christ and the church through positive reinforcement.
- Use good judgment to prevent minor incidents from becoming major problems.

Responsibilities for leaders:

- Respect all members of the youth group and church.
- Be fair and consistent in disciplinary procedures.
- Inform Youth Staff of all disciplinary actions.
- Use wise judgment to prevent minor incidents from becoming major problems.
- Teach and exhibit godly behavior and positively reinforce rules of conduct.
- Maintain a healthy and positive large/small group and atmosphere to provide spiritual growth
- Hold students accountable for their walk with God.

Responsibilities for Students

- Respect all members of youth group and the church community as you would like to be treated.
- Understand and comply with youth group rules and expectations.
- Behave in a godly manner that focuses on spiritual growth
- Be responsible and accountable for the rules stated in this Code of Conduct
- Cell phones will be picked up on all out-of-town trips and keep with Pastor Jude.
- During Bible studies cell phones are to be turn off and placed in cell jail till the end of Bible study.

Cell Phones: students will have access to any leader's cell phone if needing to make a call to parents for any reason.

Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians

- Respect, understand and support all leadership and policies of the Bethel Baptist Church youth group
- Recognize and understand that youth leaders and personnel must enforce the code of conduct.
- Teach your children to respect the rights of others and to follow youth group rules.
- Emphasize the importance of being a model person in both the home, the church, and in the community!

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Bethel Baptist Church Youth

Modesty Guidelines

These modesty guidelines have been put in place to ensure all youth dress in a modest and appropriate manner for all youth activities. The parent/guardian is responsible to see that the modesty guidelines are followed while engaged in all youth activities and outings. These guidelines include the following:

In general, revealing, or suggestive clothes are not becoming of a Christian, therefore are not permitted at any youth gathering.

- Shirts that are strapless or that reveal bare back or bare stomach should not be worn.

- Underwear should be worn under your clothes (not to be seen, either above your pants waist or through your shirt).

- Females – Two-piece swimsuits should only be worn with shorts and a swim shirt. In the case of a one-piece or tankini suit, only shorts are required.

- Guys – Wear a swim shirt with swim trunks or board shorts. NO speedos are acceptable. If a tank top is worn, there should be no gaping sides.
 - Male & female - Shorts should be appropriate length.

- No offensive language or images on clothing, including hats, etc., including alcohol or drug advertisements.

- Some activities may require a stricter dress code, these will be communicated in advance.

If clothing is deemed inappropriate, a same sex youth leader (male/male, female/female) will address the matter in a way that is respectful and not embarrassing. At this time, the parent of the youth will be notified.

Biblical Background for Modesty

The church is the body of believers brought together by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The moment God saves us, He adopts us into His family of faith, the church. The focus of the church is to continue the work of Christ until He returns. A good snapshot of the church can be found in Acts 2.42:

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

When we gather for worship or other church activities, the focus must always be the glory of God. When attention is drawn to us it is drawn away from God and that should never be the focus of our gathering.

From the beginning, God ordained that clothing is important for man and woman.

Gen. 3.7: Adam and Eve, once aware of their nakedness because of their disobedience, "sewed fig leaves together and them themselves loin coverings."

Gen. 3.21: The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

God made garments for Adam and Eve because what they thought were good enough was not acceptable to God.

Prov. 31.25: [speaking of the worthy woman, although she makes coverings for herself of fine linen and purple and makes linen garments] Strength and dignity are her clothing.

JAS. 2.2-4 [READ]: clothing can cause distinctions and distinctions become distractions

1 PET. 3.3-4 [speaking of wives, but do not misunderstand what Peter is teaching here] Your adornment must not be merely external braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quite spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

The core issue here in all these verses is the honor of God.

In the Book of 1 Timothy, the apostle Paul addressed the issue of clothing. Clothing had become an issue because wealthy church members could dress in a manner others could not and that was taking away from the worship of God. Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy:

1 Tim. 2.9-10: likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discretely, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

The background for this verse of Scripture concerns the lifestyles of the city of Ephesus. Ephesus was one of the largest cities of the world in Paul's day, a very cosmopolitan city devoted to the worship of the goddess Diana. In fact, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world was located in Ephesus, the temple of Diana. The Ephesian church was comprised of both Jew and Greek, and some in the church had come from a culture of idolatry and immoral living. Paul had noticed that the culture of the city had infiltrated the church. Some wealthy church members were flaunting their wealth in terms of how they dressed, while others were not able to; this caused division in the church and took away from the worship of God. Paul wanted to teach this young pastor Timothy that outward appearance, whether male or female, should never distract from the worship of God.

Key words here:

ADORN: to decorate or garnish

MODESTLY: sensible, self-controlled, propriety of dress, grace and dignity both in dress and demeanor.

This same word is used in 1 Tim. 3.3 of overseers (good behavior) and means well-behaved, honorable as well as modesty and sobriety [of dress]¹.

DISCRETELY: to revere what is good and to shun what is not

PROPER: suitable

The modest demeanor of the wife².

Here are a couple of comments from scholars on this verse of Scripture:

*[women] are as responsible for worship decorum as the men are³;
Dress that is not ostentatious but appropriate to the worship of God and Christ of whom Paul speaks so frequently in the Pastoral Epistles⁴.*

*Our good deeds [works] as Christian women [and men] are to call attention to God, not ourselves.
Character, not clothing should identify us and promote proper corporate worship⁵.*

It is the same spirit that Paul had with the church at Ephesus, the focus on God and not us, that these modesty guidelines are offered.

¹ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (TDNT)*, vol. III, Gerhard Kittel, ed. (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1964-76), 896.

² *TDNT*, vol. I, 171.

³ Robert W. Yarbrough, *The Letters to Timothy and Titus*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018), 165.

⁴ Yarbrough, 166.

⁵ Knute Larson, *I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon*, Holman New Testament Commentary, vol. 9 (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 169.

Bethel Baptist Church Student Pledge:

- As a student of the Bethel Baptist Church Youth Ministry, I pledge to follow the Code of Conduct, to respect others and myself, and to treat everyone in my church community with fairness and consideration.
- I understand and agree that church and youth group must be a positive and cooperative environment so that everyone can learn and grow.
- I understand that my regular attendance is a key to spiritual and community growth.
- I understand that violence, disruptive behavior, and abusive language are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

By signing this pledge, I understand and accept the responsibility of the Bethel Baptist Church Youth Ministry Code of Conduct for as long as I am a student of Bethel Baptist Church Youth Ministry.

Student Signature:

Date:

Bethel Baptist Church Youth Parent/Guardian Pledge:

- I have read and understand the Bethel Baptist Church Youth Ministry Code of Conduct and agree to support its purpose for as long as I (or my child) am a member/attender of this church and youth group community.
- I understand that I play a critical role in maintaining an environment where learning and growing is celebrated.
- I will emphasize to my child the importance of good behavior and the possible consequences if he or she violates the Bethel Baptist Church Youth Ministry Code of Conduct.
- I understand the importance of and expect open communication with the Bethel Baptist Church Youth Pastor and the leaders when my child's behavior and discipline at church are involved.

I pledge to provide positive supports for my child to encourage his/her regular youth group and church attendance, and to promote a positive learning and growing environment for all.

Parent Signature:

Date:

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH
PERMISSION, RELEASE, WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

September 2021/ August 2022

Name of Youth: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Youth Phone: _____ Please circle T-shirt size: S M L XL Other: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address, City, Zip: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

PERMISSION:

As parent/legal guardian of the Youth listed above, I give my permission for the subject of this release to be involved in the activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois. I acknowledge that participation in activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois is voluntary and may require involvement in events that require traveling or physical exertion. I acknowledge that participation by the Youth named herein in any activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois presents risks that he/she may suffer property damage, bodily injury, or death.

The Youth named above has permission to attend all activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois, including, but not limited to the following list: Baseball, basketball, Bible Studies, biking, boating, beach day, youth group at various locations, camping, concerts, cook-outs, skiing/snowboarding, games in the park, golfing, hiking, miniature golfing, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball, water-skiing, paintball, laser tag, etc.

NOTE: If you desire to limit your participation by the Youth named above in any event, please put your restrictions in writing in advance of the event.

RELEASE:

I understand all reasonable safety precautions will be taken at all times by Bethel Baptist Church and its agents during the events and activities. I understand the possibilities of unforeseen hazards and know the inherent possibility of risk. I agree to hold harmless Bethel Baptist Church, its leaders, employees and volunteer staff for damages losses, diseases or injuries incurred by the subject of this release on account of his/her participation in activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois.

I understand and hereby agree to assume all the risks, which may be encountered on these activities, including activities preliminary and subsequent thereto. I do hereby agree to hold Bethel Baptist Church, and its agents and employees, harmless from any and all liability, actions, cause of actions, claims, expenses, and damages on account of injury to the Youth named herein or property, even injury resulting in death, which may arise in the future, connected with the activity or participation in any other associated activities.

I, furthermore, agree not to hold Bethel Baptist Church, or any leaders responsible for the loss of any personal property via theft, accidental loss, damage, left behind, destroyed, from any youth service, trip, event, or group hang out. I do not expect and will not demand any loss replacement or money to replace any items that were lost, stolen, or destroyed from any activity planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois.

BEHAVIOR:

I understand that, while the Youth herein named participates in any activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois, he/she is responsible to abide by the rules set forth by the sponsoring organization, its leaders, and supervisory personnel.

The overseeing Pastor/Leader is responsible for maintaining the behavior of Youth at all activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois, and has authority to direct offenders to be picked up by their parent/guardian or to leave the outing, if the participant arrived in their own transportation. I agree to bear all expenses for picking up or transporting the Youth herein named. Behavior that is not tolerated includes, but may not be limited to:

- Fighting, harassment, continued coarse speech or behavior.
- Possession of any weapon or dangerous object.
- Possession of tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substances.
- Males are not allowed in females' rooms and females are not allowed in males' rooms at any time.
- No one is to stray from the group. In the event that someone becomes separated by accident, they must make every effort to immediately rejoin the group.
- Respect for and compliance for event/facility rules

Safe and moral conduct is mandatory for every participant at every event.

In the event the Youth herein named is dismissed from any activities planned/attended by/conducted by Bethel Baptist Church of Vandalia, Illinois, I agree to assume the cost of returning said Youth to his/her home. I further also agree to forfeit any possible refund.

CONSENT:

I consent to the use of any video images, photographs, audio recordings or any visual or audio reproduction that may be taken of the subject of this release during any activity/event to be used, distributed, or shown as Bethel Baptist Church deems appropriate.

MEDICAL CARE AUTHORIZATION:

As the Parent/Legal Guardian of the Youth herein named, I authorize Bethel Baptist Church, into whose care the minor has been entrusted, to consent to medical or dental treatment and/or other care. It is understood that this authorization is given in advance of any specific diagnosis or treatment being required and is given to provide authority and power to render care which the aforementioned physician, in his or her best judgment may deem advisable. If my child has medical conditions, which may be relevant to a physician in the event of any emergency, I have listed them below.

The undersigned has read and voluntarily signed this release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement, and further agrees that no oral representation, statements, or inducement apart from the foregoing written agreement have been made. I further state that I have carefully read the forgoing release and know the contents thereof and I sign this release as my own free act. This is a legally binding agreement, which I have read and understand.

Youth signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Telephone number where I may be reached in an emergency: _____

Medical conditions to be aware of: _____

Allergies to be aware of: _____

Food Allergies: _____

