



LIFESTYLE COVENANT FOR STUDENTS

Messiah College Foundation is 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. The decision to study at Messiah College must, therefore, be a decision you make for yourself and not merely forced upon you by your parents. You must want to be a part of a community that takes the Bible seriously, applies God's principles, and obeys His commands.

Maintaining this lifestyle contributes to the kind of atmosphere in which quality education and spiritual nurture can best occur, and strengthens the testimony of Messiah within both Christian and secular communities.

By choosing to study at Messiah College, you are committing to live in a particular way with peers who have the same values and desire to become godly men and women for the Lord. As long as you are a member of the Messiah College community, you are responsible for following the biblical guidelines and keeping your promise to live a biblical lifestyle.

Depending on the seriousness of the offense, you may be given a warning, subjected to discipline, or dismissed from Messiah College.

Biblical Basis of the Lifestyle Covenant

1. The Bible is our authority, for it provides the essential teachings and principles for personal/ community attitudes and behaviors for walking in a manner worthy of a child of God and for living a life that pleases God rather than men (2 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 1:27; Galatians 1:10).
2. Life must be lived for the glory of God. When the Bible is not clear regarding a specific behavior, we use as our guide the desire to glorify God and to avoid harming or offending another Christian by our behavior. (*1 Corinthians 8; Romans 14*)
3. Jesus commands that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (*Matthew 22:3, Mark 12:30*) and love others as we love ourselves. (*Matthew 22:39; Luke 10:27; 1 John 4:7-11*). The book of Colossians provides an appropriate description of the kind of relationships we should strive for (*Colossians 3:1-25; 4:1-6*).
4. The Bible exhorts us to become an example of maturing Christian character, attitude, and conduct. (1 Timothy 4:12; Romans 12:2; Philippians 2: 14-15).
5. God commands us to be pure and holy in thought, words, and deeds (*1 Peter 1:13-15*) and not to gratify the desires of our sinful nature. A list of the desires of our sinful nature may be found in: *Galatians 5:16-21, Colossians 3:5;8-10, Proverbs 8:13; 1 John 2:16, and 2 Tim. 3:1-5*.
6. We are admonished to pursue, nurture, and demonstrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (*Galatians 5: 22-24*).
7. We are to submit to authority (*Colossians 3:20; Romans 13:1; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13*).
8. We are to imitate Christ's humble attitude and servant spirit. (*Philippians 2:3-8; Matt. 20:28*)

Witnesses:

Panelist

I submit to the exercise of disciplinary powers by Messiah College should major offenses – such as major academic dishonesty, falsification of documents and other illegal activities or criminal acts – that I committed as a student are discovered after my graduation. I understand and accept that disciplinary actions may include the revocation of any degree, diploma, certificate, or other academic distinction conferred upon me during my graduation.

Panelist

I understand that the recurrence of minor and major offenses is an indication that Messiah College may not be the best fit for me. If needed, I am willing to subject myself to an evaluation by the Board of Review & Discipline and I will willingly leave Messiah College should the Board deem it necessary for me to do so. I also understand that some of the major offenses will automatically bar me from continuing my studies at Messiah College.

- 10. To be accountable for my actions and be open to rebuke and corrections.
- 11. To have a pure heart and always behave in a manner worthy to be called a child of God and an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

Panelist

- 9. To avoid relationships, activities, practices, or things that...
 - endanger my personal health & psychological well-being
(Ex. smoking; drinking alcoholic beverages; using hallucinogenic drugs & substances/ narcotics unauthorized by a physician, etc.)
 - hinder my spiritual growth
(Ex. engaging in the occult; pursuing a romantic relationship with someone who's not a Christian, etc.)
 - offend, hurt, or cause another Christian to stumble
(Ex. public display of affection, immodesty of dress, discrimination, demeaning gestures, backbiting, gossip, and vulgar language, acts of aggression, etc.)
 - are dishonest (Ex. lying, stealing, cheating; plagiarizing), immoral (Ex. homosexuality, pre-marital sex and actions leading to it), or against the law (Ex. possession, use, or distribution of drugs/ firearms and other deadly weapons; tampering with legal documents, forgery, etc.)

Parent's Signature

- Agreeing with all of the above, I promise to maintain the following standards of conduct:**
- 1. To observe spiritual disciplines, especially a daily quiet time in Bible reading & prayer and observance of the Lord's Day (Sunday) as a day set apart primarily for worship, fellowship, ministry, and rest.
 - 2. To be an active member of an evangelical Christian church through ministry involvement.
 - 3. To respect and obey my parents, faculty members, and school staff; to refrain from causing disunity & inciting rebellion in school; and, to respect my fellow students as well.
 - 4. To promote cooperation and harmony rather than competition, disunity, and rebellion.
 - 5. To be sensitive to others by refraining from speaking in tongues during corporate worship at Messiah.
 - 6. To be a good steward of the school's properties (such as its physical facilities, furniture, and equipment) and resources (such as water & electricity).
 - 7. To choose my forms of entertainment wisely by avoiding pornography, gambling, bars, night clubs, etc.
 - 8. To meet all academic requirements (ex. attending retreats, ministry week, cross-cultural trip, chapel, prayer and family time) and follow school policies without grumbling or complaining (ex. dress code, cellphones in class, attendance & punctuality, proper use of computers, etc.)

Student's Printed Name and Signature

Date