

# 8

## Lifestyle Covenant & Sexual Ethics Policy

### LIFESTYLE COVENANT

As leaders in Youth Dynamics, we play a critical role in the lives of youth, and we realize our lifestyle choices matter to God and impact the relationships we seek to build with youth. We are called to live like Christ, follow God’s example, and resist sexual immorality (Hebrews 13:7 and Ephesians 5:1-4). To whom much is given (a leadership role), much is expected (higher standard of living), and so we strive for a life above reproach (Titus 1:6-9). While we don’t expect perfection and recognize our brokenness, we want to model Jesus in our actions and words.

As leaders, we commit to holding each other mutually accountable to our Lifestyle Covenant and Sexual Ethics Policy. Failure to follow these guidelines reasonably and consistently will be addressed, but non-compliant behaviors, unrepentant, and ongoing are of particular concern. Such individuals will not meet our qualifications for hiring or retention.

Being a part of the ministry of Youth Dynamics is not a “right”; it is a calling and privilege. Individuals genuinely called to the ministry will gladly strive to serve Christ with lives marked by holiness and godliness. The following is the Youth Dynamics Lifestyle Covenant:

1. I will pursue a life that models Jesus. (*1 Corinthians 11:1*)
2. I will encourage and uplift others with my actions and words. (*Ephesians 4:29*)
3. I will be careful of what I post on social media and remember that youth, supporters, and other partners will see it.
4. I will strive to live a life of sexual purity in both my actions and thoughts. (*1 Thessalonians 4:3-5*)
5. If I am struggling sexually, I will be transparent and seek help.
6. I will use appropriate physical contact with youth, staff, and volunteers.
7. I will support Youth Dynamics Sexual Ethics Policy when interacting with youth.

## SEXUAL ETHICS POLICY

### Our Posture:

1. **Humility** - We all experience personal brokenness. Because of that brokenness, we all need Jesus.
2. **Love** - God loves all people regardless of sexual orientation, personal beliefs, life choices, etc. As Christians, we must always lead with love.
3. **Truth** - Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, we must engage differences in action and thoughts with truth from Scripture, always in humility, love, and relationship.

### We Believe:

1. God loves all His creation and has created each person with purpose and value. (1 John 4:10; Ephesians 2:10)
2. God creates every person in His image and treats us with love and respect. (Genesis 1-2)
3. All individuals are sinful by nature and experience sexual brokenness. (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12)
4. A traditional Christian view of marriage is an institution created by God between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24)
5. Marriage is the only union created by God designed for sexual relations. (1 Corinthians 6)

We welcome Christians from various backgrounds and denominations. As we interact with youth and other constituents (donors, partners, etc.), we realize that sexual brokenness is everywhere. Sexual brokenness includes, but is not limited to, non-marital sexual relationships (including same-sex relationships), pornography use, sexual objectification or harassment, and gender dysphoria. As such, we desire consistency and unity in how we communicate with youth and these constituents. The statements above are the foundation, based on the authority of Scripture, to which Youth Dynamics staff, volunteers, and board of directors will refer and use as a guide as needed.

It is an expectation for staff members to make sure volunteers who directly work with youth are not endorsing a posture or sexual ethic that differs. Board of Directors and Advisory Committee Members must also uphold this policy.

Open dialogue and resource inquiries are encouraged. Youth Dynamics welcomes a respectful discussion.