

Student Life

Philosophy

The Bible, God's Word, is clear regarding the obligation of believers to grow and mature toward Christ-likeness.

That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: (Ephesians 4:14-15)

The students and staff of Florida Bible College of Tampa, together with the members of our host church, make up a community of believers who worship together, pray together, care for one another, and together grow in Christian maturity. We share the vision of presenting a clear, simple gospel message to the lost across the street and around the world.

The head of our enterprise is the Lord Jesus Christ. His leadership guides us as we grow together and fulfill our mission of preaching the gospel and teaching the next generation of soul-winning leaders.

It is a privilege to be a part of the family at Florida Bible College of Tampa, and we who are a part have responsibilities. We take our responsibilities seriously. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses – the church family, parents, donors, and the community around us, as well as the heavenly cloud of witnesses. Supremely, the Lord will review our lives, and reward us accordingly.

Lest anyone be confused, eternal life is the free gift of God, given by grace without works to each one who believes that Jesus loves us and died in our place. After salvation, every child of God *ought to* grow and increase in maturity, as he learns God's Word, serves others, discovers his gifts, and shares the gospel with the lost.

Someone has said that the Christian life is not difficult – it is *impossible*. As it would be impossible for anyone to merit eternal life by good works, similarly the successful Christian life is only possible by the grace of God. But we who believe are assured that our heavenly Father has empowered us. His Spirit lives in us and teaches us through God's Word the eternal purpose for our lives.

The Christian life must be built on proper obedience and proper motivation, which enable believers to adequately make choices that are based upon love toward God, gratitude for salvation, a shared concern for the eternal destiny of the lost, and a desire for eternal rewards. While the mechanics of the Christian life (Bible study, prayer, worship, fellowship, and sharing the gospel) do not make one "spiritual", these elements certainly characterize a spiritually mature person.

While observance of guidelines does not guarantee attainment of spirituality, the attitudes and reactions of believers who willingly submit to guidelines can reveal their integrity and character.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may

prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
(Rom 12:1-2)

Love God

The greatest command in the Law is the command to love God. We love Him because He first loved us. We do not love God in order to earn salvation, and loving God does not place us under the law. Grace teaches us that love is the fulfilling of the law.

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.” (1 John 4:7-12)

Love One Another and Others

“And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
(Matthew 22:39)

“But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.” (1 Corinthians 8:9-13)

To encourage mutual consideration, preserve the testimony of the college in the community, and facilitate accomplishment of its purpose, Florida Bible College of Tampa sets forth the following standards of conduct. Students who apply for admission to the college agree to “cheerfully abide” by these standards. Some may not have personal convictions wholly in accord with these standards, but all students must obligate themselves to adhere to these standards while enrolled at FBC. They must withdraw if they are unable to comply.

- **Church Participation** – Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening worship, and midweek service participation is expected. Students from the Tampa Bay area are expected to faithfully continue participating in all services of their home church. Out of town students are expected to participate in the services of our host, Calvary Community Church. Upperclassmen may seek service opportunities in other local churches, with FBC staff advice and consent.
- **Chapel** – Mid-morning chapel services provide spiritual refreshment to the FBC community on scheduled days. Students are expected to participate in chapel every day on which they have a class scheduled.

- Christian Service – Students are expected to serve in Christian ministry on a regular basis. Service in ministry provides the practical experience to enable a Bible college graduate to move into his life work with skill and confidence. Practical experience is as essential as classroom training. Upperclassmen will be encouraged to move into leadership opportunities while they are still in college. Graduation from Florida Bible College is conditioned on satisfactory Christian service as well as completion of the academic requirements.
- Dorm Meetings and Other Opportunities – students are encouraged to participate in weekly dorm meetings, for prayer and fellowship. Success in certain more difficult classes is more certainly obtained by student participation in group study sessions. The student government may plan special service events and evangelism opportunities.

Biblical Standards

Practices plainly taught in the Bible as morally wrong are prohibited. Violation of the following standards could be cause for dismissal from FBC. These include (but are not limited to): disrespect to those in authority, drunkenness, theft, slanderous or profane language, gossip, occult practices, cheating and other integrity violations. Sexual sins include (but are not limited to) premarital sex, adultery, homosexual behavior, or sexual harassment, and are cause for dismissal. Conviction of any crime is cause for dismissal. The President will review all such behavior issues, and will make the final decision in any matter of student dismissal.

Certain practices allowed in the culture surrounding us can be harmful and lead to immoral behavior. Members of the FBCT community (students and staff) are expected to refrain from possession or use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs not prescribed by their physician, pornography or obscene material, gambling, social dancing in clubs or bars (“clubbing”), not meeting financial obligations properly, and substandard work performance.

- **Grace Period and Problem Resolution:** Anyone who comes to FBCT struggling with any of these aforementioned behaviors will have a two week grace period at the beginning of each semester to privately explain this problem to the Dean. No immediate discipline will be administered if the student makes this explanation during the two week grace period. The Dean and the student agree on a plan for addressing the student’s behavior in a confidential manner. The primary goal is for the student to cease the improper behavior immediately. If the two week grace period passes without the student taking the initiative to seek help from the Dean, the behavior will be addressed pursuant to discipline standards in place.
- **Discipline:**
 1. When the standards of Florida Bible College of Tampa are violated, a staff member will privately confront the offending student, and clearly outline the violation.
 2. If the student accepts the admonition and responds appropriately, no further action is taken. The staff member will write and retain a privately held report of the matter.
 3. If a student does not respond appropriately, and immediate appointment will be scheduled with the Dean. The staff member will accompany the student and outline the violation and the student response to the Dean. The Dean will ask, in the staff member’s presence, for the student’s response. If the student responds appropriately, a written report and warning will be placed in the student file, and no further action is taken.

4. If the student does not respond appropriately, an immediate appointment will be scheduled with the President to determine if dismissal is appropriate. Prior to dismissal the student will be asked for a response. If the student responds appropriately, he or she will be placed on disciplinary probation for one semester, and the incident will become part of his or her permanent record.
5. If the same student commits a similar violation again, the same steps are followed with the following exception: If the student responds appropriately to the staff member, a written warning is placed into the student's permanent record. If the student must meet with the Dean again, and an appropriate response is made, the student is placed on disciplinary probation. If the student does not respond appropriately to the dean, he is referred to the President FOR DISMISSAL. It is solely within the President's discretion to decide the proper course of action.

- ***Open Door Policy***

It is our hope that any problem that may arise for any student may be resolved swiftly, and to the satisfaction of all involved. To this end, every instructor, administrator and officer of the college has an "open-door" policy – we will listen to any student concern. If, as it may happen, a student has an issue that should be resolved between that student and another student, we will urge the student to follow the Biblical guidelines, and seek resolution on a private level (see **Personal Confrontation**, p. 14).

- ***Appropriate Demeanor***

1. Come to classes on time, with textbook(s) and all other required materials.
2. Address teachers and other students by appropriate titles (Doctor, Mister, Pastor, Mrs. And Miss) and with appropriate respect.
3. Be courteous: sit up, listen attentively, and participate in class discussions.
4. Work missed due to *unexcused* absences may NOT be made up. For excused absences, the student can make up missed work (both tests and assignments) on his own initiative, within one week of return from the excused absence (two weeks for final exams). A make-up fee of \$1, \$2, or \$5 is to be paid to the person inconvenienced by the student's late work (grade book keeper or instructor). Fee should be paid cheerfully.
5. Student government officers act on behalf of the President of the college, and should be accorded due respect.

- ***Student Employment***

All student employment must be approved by the Dean; no student should accept employment of questionable nature.

- ***Dress Code***

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20)

Students should begin to build their professional workplace wardrobe early, while in college.

- Men should wear dress slacks, dress shirts, ties and leather dress-style shoes in all chapel services. Outside of chapel, men may remove ties, and on non-chapel days may wear polo-style collared shirts to classes.
- Women should wear knee-length skirts or dresses with shoulders covered, and dress-style shoes in chapels and in classes.
- All students are to be neat and clean with clothing in good repair. Neither shorts nor jeans are allowed in classes. Men must refrain from wearing hats in chapel or classroom.
- When making presentations before a class or on similar occasions, students should dress professionally.
- at banquets, convocation, President's reception, graduation and other special events student should dress in semi-formal or business attire.

The way we live and dress is the way the world around us sees Jesus Christ. Florida Bible College of Tampa is preparing Christian leaders and Christian professionals. We will teach students to dress in an appropriate, modest, professional manner.

Although thinking may differ regarding modern clothing and style choices, FBCT reserves the right to take a conservative approach to standards of dress and appearance. The Bible teaches standards of modesty, simplicity, neatness and cleanliness.

Awareness of appropriate dress is an important part of any individual's social maturity. Students and staff are expected to avoid extremes in fashion, such as:

- Clothing: of immodest length, too tight; in poor repair; in a styles typical of a rebellious subculture, or displaying printed messages contrary to the goals and values of God's Word.
- Hairstyles: Men's hair length over the ears and/or collar; hair unkempt or having an unnatural color.
- Piercings: in excess. Only women may wear pierced earrings, at the ear lobe, with no more than two pairs.
- Bare feet: shoes must be worn at all times in all buildings, except in the dorms.

These standards are to be observed at all times on the FBCT campus, and off campus while representing the college.

1. ***Entertainment***

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; “

(1Timothy 6:17)

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.”

(Philippians 4:8;

cf. James 4:4)

Students are expected to refrain from any television programs, internet sites, video games, movies, music, posters, printed material, or any other entertainment which is morally degrading, deviates from Biblical standards, maligns God, God's Word, God's work, or desensitizes the participant to ungodliness.

Pornography (print or internet) is an addictive, escalating sin. Use or possession of such is prohibited. FBC seeks to help any who may be struggling with this self-destructive behavior, through education, counseling, discipline, and the monitoring of internet use.

Many other forms of entertainment can easily steal away too much time from students trying to succeed academically and in ministry.

➤ **Discernment:**

Consider any entertainment by the following standards:

1. If content violates Biblical doctrine or standard, avoid it entirely.
2. Weigh whether content can be said to **glorify God**:
 - a. Some is always acceptable, and not questioned by any.
 - b. Some may include content that meets Biblical standards, but might include elements that are **not** acceptable to everyone. Such might be enjoyed privately or in a setting where no one else is disturbed.
 - c. Some, is always unacceptable, with content in violation of our standards
3. Some collections may include content of more than one of the above three categories. Students are strongly encouraged to leave borderline entertainment collections or items elsewhere.
4. Performance entertainments are subject to the same standards.

➤ **FBCT Entertainment Standard:**

Good music has a balance of the elements of melody, harmony and rhythm. Good vocal music has words that are easily understood.

Music which is similar in form to rock or hip-hop (whether “Christian” or otherwise) is not acceptable for FBCT students.

FBCT staff may request (verbally or in writing) an explanation from a student regarding specific entertainment the student has chosen. Always remember the principles of tolerance and sensitivity to the concerns of others.

- **Personal Confrontation**

FBCT encourages all students and staff to practice issues of personal confrontation in accord with the Biblical model (Matthew 18:15-20), always with humility and the goal of honoring God:

1. If you have suffered an offence, you should first speak to the offending person privately.
2. If you are unable to be reconciled, you should speak to the offending person in the presence of one or two other mature witnesses.
3. If reconciliation is still not obtained, bring the matter before the authorities.

- **Dating, Engagement and Marriage**

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:”

(1 Thessalonians 4:3-5)

Public displays of affection among couples (beyond hand holding) can create an atmosphere that is uncomfortable for others. Couples also have a responsibility to maintain Biblically sound standards in their private behavior. Students should not place themselves in compromising situations.

Students must complete at least three semesters at Florida Bible College of Tampa, or attain the age of 21 before marrying. FBCT staff members are available to any who wish to discuss this policy privately. Group sessions for those considering engagement and marriage will be scheduled as needed.

- **Dorm situations**

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)

Students are not to be in dorm rooms with members of the opposite sex other than their spouses. All students should be in their own dorm rooms prior to curfew.

2. **Quiet Hours** Sunday – Thursday 8:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
Friday – Saturday 10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

- **Curfew** Sunday – Thursday: 11:59 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 12:59 a.m.

Campus Facilities

Florida Bible College of Tampa enjoys the use of the facilities of our host church, Calvary Community Church of Tampa. The church physical plant includes two main buildings, with an auditorium seating 300+, a library, a full-sized gymnasium with a stage at one end, and a commercial food service facility at the other end. The Registrar’s Office contains a second library of resources for student research. Some six classrooms, with appropriate desks and seating, surround the gymnasium - and the second (upstairs) level of the gymnasium building remains available for future expansion as needed.

The auditorium and several of the classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art audio and video recording equipment, enabling the recording and the live streaming of class sessions. The auditorium and three other classrooms are also equipped with appropriate video projectors (or large monitor), to enable instruction using digital presentation materials. Classrooms also

include white boards. Wireless internet routers are located in both buildings, allowing both students and instructors to utilize the resources of the internet for research or for classroom presentation.

Most instructors teach from their own notes, providing a copy of the course outline to the students, or from textbook materials – the students purchase textbooks for each course, as the instructor may deem appropriate, at registration, before each semester begins. Multiple student-use computers and printers are available.

A food preparation and storage area is also available for student use, in this gymnasium-classroom building. These areas are open for the students to use between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday (church activities block these evenings, and Sundays).

A classroom will be maintained as a quiet place for study when the gym is open, and the college library, in the main church building, will be open for research and study purposes during the same hours as the gym.

Westly Shore Facilities – residents and guests at Westly Shores may use all the Westly Shores facilities during the hours Westly Shores makes these available (but keep in mind the college standards of modest dress).