

# GUIDES TOWARD CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

*"Thy word is a lamp  
unto my feet, and a  
light unto my path."*

*—Psalm 119:105.*



## GUIDES TOWARD CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We, ministers of the Ministerial Association of the Church of God (Headquarters, Oregon, Illinois), recognizing the need of a definite statement concerning dangerous social trends imperiling Christian living, and, in an effort to encourage both churches and individual Christians to manifest a greater evidence of Christian faith and principles, do hereby recommend greater consideration for the following factors as guides toward proper Christian conduct:

(1) The spirit of Christ should be the guiding factor in all personal and church relationships. Because of the great detriment to faith that can be brought about by unkind, ill-considered, or unchristian remarks or attitudes, all conduct should be governed and all decisions administered with a greater degree of Christian love, that "every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification" (Rom. 15:2).

(2) Absolute justice and fair dealing should be exercised in all business and social relationships, that the practical effects of Christianity may be upheld and a greater degree of evangelistic influence exerted upon the general public.

(3) Recognizing the devastating effects of gossip and all misleading or harmful reports, the Biblical condemnation of such should be constantly remembered and the Christian be first assured of the truth of all statements and speak only in Christian love, that only good and no harm may result.

(4) Profanity and all unclean and idle talk are to be deplored as marks of carnality, and should be avoided completely, that we may be more definitely apart from the world.

(5) Because of the unlimited possibility for the destruction of personal faith that is to be found in marriage failures, every effort should be made to uphold factors of sound marriage.

(6) Present trends toward flirtatious and insincere conduct in matters of friendship, love, and marriage should be recognized and avoided as out-of-keeping with Christian principles and as steps toward an unsatisfactory future life that may destroy individual faith.

(7) Faith and spirituality can be maintained only by study, prayer, and fellowship. For this reason, church attendance and activity, as well as personal effort in daily Christian living, are to be regarded as an essential part of regular Christian conduct.

(8) Inasmuch as dancing, the attendance at taverns, night clubs, and other places of questionable amusement are recognized as detrimental to spiritual life and constitute pitfalls for self and others, such attendance in even minor ways is to be regarded as out of keeping with Christian standards.

(9) Because of the undermining effects of alcohol upon physical and moral life, total abstinence and a constant attitude of disfavor toward all types of strong drink should be regarded as the accepted practice of all Christians.

(10) Gambling and participation in similar games of chance tend to stamp the individual with the marks of the world and should not be entered into by those who would "abstain from all appearance of evil."

(11) Inasmuch as refraining from the use of tobacco is recognized more readily by the world as

evidence of Christian faith, and the harmful effects of tobacco—especially upon a growing boy or girl—are clearly understood, the Christian will by example uphold definite standards by refusing the use of all forms of tobacco.

Feeling that our church fellowship would profit immeasurably by the adoption of these guides in Christian conduct, they are herewith recommended this thirtieth day of January, 1948.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION,  
By Robert Hardesty, Secretary.

(For helpful study, see Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:22; 5:11; Col. 3:1-17; 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Cor. 6:19, 20; 8:12, 13; 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; James 1:27; 4:4; Matt. 5:14-16.)

Published by  
NATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTION  
Oregon, Illinois