

# FamiliesAlive®

## Our Code of Ethics

We understand that God calls us not only to believe what the Bible teaches, but also to behave as the Bible teaches. Genuine faith yields to the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ and seeks to please Him by living a life of obedient love and holiness.

All Christian ethics are established in the eternal nature of God the Father, exemplified in God the Son, and made possible in this life by God the Holy Spirit who transforms us into the likeness of Christ through the power of His indwelling, convicting us of our sins, revealing the truth of our freedom from sin, and guiding us into a life of captivity in righteousness through the power of the blood of Jesus our Savior.

No one stands righteous before God apart from the grace given to us through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of Jehovah God. Because of our sinful and fallen state, we do not, cannot, and may never earn the love of God by any personal work, sacrifice, or effort. Our attempts to live ethically and obey the commandments of God are the proper and expected return of love to our Redeemer, not a method to gain his favor. We seek holiness that His name might be exalted in our own hearts and by the witness of a life lived in gratitude. Since we cannot produce this holiness in ourselves, holiness is only possible by submitting to the transforming work of the Spirit within us.

The Holy Scriptures are our only rule for faith and practice and are the guide God has given to show how He would have us live as His children. By His grace, we will seek to live "good lives" (1 Peter 2:12) in keeping with the ethical standards established in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) and summarized by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-8.

We also acknowledge that God clearly defines sin that the believer should avoid and prayerfully resolve to flee from such things, dependant, as always, upon the grace of God. Of particular note among the sinful behaviors historically prevalent and destructively prominent in the record of those called by the name of God are the sins of Idolatry, Sexual Immorality, and Murder. With respect to idolatry: our Lord is the only One worthy of our adoration and worship. All other persons, activities, and things diminish by comparison and are not ever to be held in equal or greater esteem. Regarding sexual immorality: as marriage and sexuality are created, defined, and protected by God all sexual interaction is reserved for the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman. Regarding murder: God alone gives life and requires the taking of life. All humans are created in the image of God and we condone no action that harms, ends, or diminishes human life outside of the defensive provisions of Scripture. We confess these practices to be sin and commit to fleeing from these and other forms of disobedience.

Because God's love triumphs over sin and brings healing, we will strive to restore those found trapped in sin in a loving, graceful manner, seeking this restoration through repentance, forgiveness, and a life lived in obedience through the compassion of our God that is daily renewed and offered to all of us (Lamentations 3:22-23).

As Christian leaders, we are called to set an example in "speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Honoring God, marriage, life, and seeking to live in humble obedience to God are fundamental prerequisites to such leadership. For this we strive, supplied by the grace of God, that we might "live lives worthy of the calling we have received." (Ephesians 4:1)

FamiliesAlive® finds the ethical imperatives emphasized in this document to capture the sense of the Bible and expresses the importance of living out the Christian faith in every area of life. We believe this is essential for a strong ministry and for the healing of family relationships. It is our policy to remain faithful to the standard expressed in this document.

As a board member of FamiliesAlive® I concur with these ethical imperatives and agree to abide by this policy.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_