

Because EFM bases its acceptable standards of behavior on organizational and individual commitments to God and to the Bible, and is committed to biblically based lifestyles of morality, marital fidelity, and faith, all missionaries will be held to a high standard of conduct. Because these standards are based on biblical principles, acceptable behavior for our missionaries will differ from that considered acceptable by society in general.

Believers are commanded to avoid all appearance of evil and we are not “to cause a weaker brother to stumble.” Hence missionaries must conduct themselves in a manner that is above reproach and as examples of godly living. This principle is lived out through two different approaches.

The first has to do with behaviors clearly prohibited by scripture—drunkenness, sexual immorality, homosexual behavior, greed, dishonesty and anything that destroys the body are just a few examples. With biblically prohibited behaviors, the EFM Board expects the EFM Director to initiate a disciplinary process that has repentance and restitution as its first objective. This process may include the missionary being placed on leave of absence. It also may include, after consultation with the EFM Executive Committee, the possibility of immediate dismissal.

The second level has to do with conduct not explicitly forbidden by scripture, and may include some behaviors that may be practiced by some as a matter of Christian freedom—consumption of alcohol or tobacco, gambling and some aspects of entertainment might be included in this list. While EFM affirms freedom of conscience for those who follow Christ, it also recognizes that Christian leaders must embrace the extraordinary privilege of setting aside some behaviors—including those listed above—as a witness to their destructive character and eliminate any chance of being a stumbling block to the weak. It should be clear that because of the devastation caused by alcohol and tobacco consumption, drug use, pornography and gambling and their destructive consequences on both individuals and society; and because Christian leaders have a responsibility to provide models for overcoming those consequences, EFM stands for abstinence from these practices. The EFM Board envisions that the EFM Director counsel with missionaries regarding these (or other potentially questionable) behaviors as a way to examine more deeply this leadership responsibility in the missionaries’ specific context. If necessary, the EFM Director may ask the EFM Executive Board to consider a specific circumstance and then provide direction to the missionary regarding the behavior in question. The missionary is expected to abide by the EFM Board’s decision or resign.

**Misuse of Mission Funds:** Any misuse of mission funds for personal purposes or any embezzlement of mission funds will be cause for immediate dismissal, restitution and possible criminal prosecution in a severe case.

**Materialism:** It is recognized that a difference in standard of living between missionaries and nationals can be a cause for tension. Money and material things may nullify a missionary’s effectiveness with nationals. Simplicity, balance and generosity with possessions is encouraged to avoid the development of a barrier between missionary and nationals.