

# Gathering Leadership

## Above Reproach Agreement

As a steward of the ministry to which God has entrusted, an individual in ministry leadership must closely guard his actions to avoid bringing reproach upon himself, the ministry, the church, or God Himself. The extent to which the Gathering and McLean Bible Church can fulfill its vision to impact the collegiate generations with the message of Jesus Christ rests in part on our integrity. Because individuals approved into leadership carry the Gathering's and McLean Bible Church's integrity into the secular community, leaders must strive to be above reproach in every way. See 1 Timothy 3:2-15, 6:3-14; Titus 1:7-9. Even though some actions may not be sinful in fact, they may nevertheless bring reproach by a third-person observer, thus weakening the ability of the church to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. See 1 Corinthians 9:22-23; 1 Peter 2:12. The following is presented not as an exhaustive list but rather examples of those behaviors that have in the past interfered with a leader's ability to lead at the Gathering.

- Living in a co-ed household (unless roommates are family members).
- Spending the night at the house of a boyfriend/girlfriend (even if you sleep in separate rooms or separate beds).
- Substance abuse, including drunkenness and drug abuse (illegal or prescription drugs).
- Sexual immorality, including pre-marital sex and impurity in dating relationships.

The freedom of Christ followers is bought with the blood of Christ, not to satisfy the desires of the flesh, Galatians 5:24, but rather to use that freedom to glorify Christ with our actions, 1 Corinthians 10:31. Where the Word is silent on a particular action or behavior, a Christ follower must, through prayer, seek God's direction and wisdom and live according to the principles of Romans 14:13-23. The following, while not necessarily sinful, may cause others to question your integrity:

- Inappropriate dress.
- Alcohol and tobacco use.
- Your behavior at social activities such as bars and nightclubs, concerts, sporting events, etc.
- Relationships and flirting with the opposite sex.

Galatians 5:24 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

<sup>31</sup>So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

<sup>23</sup>I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup>Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

