

FIRST BAPTIST ACADEMY NAPLES

3000 ORANGE BLOSSOM DRIVE, NAPLES, FL 34109-8919 PHONE: 239.597.2233 FAX: 239.597.4187
WWW.FBALIONS.ORG

EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

Your interest in employment with First Baptist Church Naples is appreciated. We invite you to fill out this initial application and return it to our office. If an opening occurs for which you may qualify, we will contact you. We will also contact your references. If we have continued interest in your candidacy, we will arrange for a personal interview.

We look forward to receiving your initial application. Thank you for your interest in church ministry. It is our prayer that God will fulfill His perfect will in the lives of all applicants.

A. APPLICANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Full name: _____

Application date: _____ Date available: _____

Present Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Best time to call you? _____

How long have you lived at the above address? _____

Permanent Address and Phone number if different than present address

List any additional addresses where you have resided in the past 5 to 10 years:

Are you at least 18 years of age? Yes _____ No _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen or legally authorized to work in the United States? Yes _____ No _____

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B. POSITION DESIRED

Position Desired _____

Full time _____ Part time _____ Temporary _____

Are you available to work overtime and to be called to work when required?
Yes _____ No _____

How did you learn about the position for which you are applying?

Special Abilities Please list special abilities you have that would make you the right person for this position.

Future Plans What would you like to be doing five years from now?

C. CHRISTIAN BACKGROUND

Bible Do you believe the Bible to be the ONLY inspired and infallible Word of God, our final authority in all matters of faith, truth and conduct?
Yes _____ No _____ Signature: _____

Statement of Faith Please carefully read the attached statement "Our Beliefs" and indicate below your degree of support.

_____ I fully support the statement as written without mental reservations.
Signature: _____

_____ I support the statement except for the area(s) listed and explained on a separate paper. The exceptions represent either disagreements or items for which I have not yet formed an opinion or conviction.
Signature: _____

Have you been baptized by immersion?
Yes _____ No _____ Signature: _____

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In your own handwriting, briefly give your Christian Testimony in the space provided below:

Handwriting lines for Christian Testimony

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Church
Service

Denominational preference? _____

What is your local church affiliation? _____

Are you presently a member in good standing? _____ Years? _____

In what church activities are you involved and with what degree of regularity?

What other Christian service have you done since becoming a Christian?

What is your attitude toward working with those of other races and those of other denominational beliefs?

Are you capable of teaching a Bible class? _____ If Yes, what would be your subject preferences?

To what extent do you believe you should become involved in Sunday and other weekday ministries of the sponsoring church or the church of which you are a member?

Devotional
Life

Describe your routine of personal Bible study and prayer.

What books have you read recently that have helped you spiritually?

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D. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Please start with your current or most recent employer and list all employment for the past ten years, including former FBCN or FBA employment, self-employment, and military service. If necessary, you may make copies of this page or following the same format, use separate paper.

May we contact your current employer? _____ Yes _____ No
--

Work	1. Employer _____
Back-	Position _____ Dates of Employment _____
Ground	Address _____

	Supervisor's Name and Phone Number _____
	Reason for leaving _____
	Salary _____
	2. Employer _____
	Position _____ Dates of Employment _____
	Address _____

	Supervisor's Name and Phone Number _____
	Reason for leaving _____
	Salary _____
	3. Employer _____
	Position _____ Dates of Employment _____
	Address _____

	Supervisor's Name and Phone Number _____
	Reason for leaving _____
	Salary _____
	4. Employer _____
	Position _____ Dates of Employment _____
	Address _____

	Supervisor's Name and Phone Number _____
	Reason for leaving _____
	Salary _____
	5. Employer _____
	Position _____ Dates of Employment _____
	Address _____

	Supervisor's Name and Phone Number _____
	Reason for leaving _____
	Salary _____

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Have you ever worked under a different name for any of the employers you have listed? If so, what was the name or names?

Have you ever been convicted of a felony by a civil or military authority?

Yes _____ No _____

E. EDUCATION

	Name of School	Address of School	Degree Received	Field of Study(ies)
High School				
College				
Graduate School or Seminary				
Other				

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F. PERSONAL REFERENCES

You will need to sign the **Reference Release Form** that is attached and return it with this application. Do not list family members or relatives for references.

References Give two references that are qualified to speak of your spiritual experience and Christian service. * **Do not use First Baptist Church Naples Pastoral Staff.**

Name	Complete Address	Email	Phone	Position	School

Give three references that are qualified to speak of your professional training and experience. **List your current or most recent supervisor first.**

Name	Complete Address	Email	Phone	Position	School

<p>May we contact your current employer? _____ Yes _____ No</p>
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G. APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT

I understand that **First Baptist Church Naples** does not discriminate in its employment practices against any person because of race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, gender, age, disability or veteran's status.

I hereby certify that the facts set forth in this initial application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that discovery of falsification of any statement or a significant omission of fact may prevent me from being hired, or if hired, may subject me to immediate dismissal regardless of the time elapsed before discovery. If I am released under these circumstances, I further understand that I will be paid and receive benefits only through the day of release.

I authorize **First Baptist Church Naples** to thoroughly interview the primary references which I have listed, any secondary references mentioned through interviews with primary references, or other individuals, that know me and have knowledge regarding my testimony and work record. I also authorize the church to thoroughly investigate my work records and evaluations, my educational preparation, and other matters related to my suitability for the job.

I authorize references and my former employers to disclose to First Baptist Church Naples any and all employment records, performance reviews, letters, reports, and other information related to my life and employment, without giving me prior notice of such disclosure. In addition, I hereby release the church, my former employers, references, and all other parties from any and all claims, demands, or liabilities arising out of or in any way related to such investigation or disclosure. I waive the right to ever personally view any references given to the church.

Since I will occasionally come in contact with children, I understand that I must submit to a fingerprint check by the FBI and possibly other federal and state and local authorities. I agree to fully cooperate in providing and recording as many sets of my fingerprints as are necessary for such an investigation. I authorize the church to conduct a criminal records check. I understand and agree that any offer of employment that I may receive from the church is conditioned upon the receipt of background information, including criminal background information. The church may refuse employment or terminate conditional employment if the church deems any background information unfavorable or to reflect adversely on the church or on me as a Christian role model.

I understand that this is only an application for employment and that no employment contract is being offered at this time.

I certify that I have carefully read and do understand the above statements.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE REFERENCE INFORMATION

I have made application for a position as a _____ with **First Baptist Church Naples**. I have authorized the church to thoroughly interview the primary references which I have listed, any secondary references mentioned through interviews with primary references, or other individuals that know me and have knowledge regarding my testimony and work record. I also authorize the church to thoroughly investigate my work records and evaluations, my educational preparation, and all other matters related to my suitability for employment.

I authorize references and my former employers to disclose to the church any and all employment records, performance reviews, letters, reports, and other information related to my life and employment, without giving me prior notice of such disclosure.

In addition, I hereby release **First Baptist Church Naples**, my former employers, references, and all other parties from any and all claims, demands, or liabilities arising out of or in any way related to such investigation or disclosure.

I waive the right to ever personally view any references given to **First Baptist Church Naples**.

I agree that a photocopy or facsimile copy of this document and any signature shall be considered for all purposes as the original signed release on file.

I certify that I have carefully read and do understand the above statements.

Applicant's Name (Print) _____

Date _____

Applicant's Signature _____

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**First Baptist Church Naples
First Baptist Academy
Job Skills Questionnaire**

Clerical Skills

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Typing (<input type="checkbox"/> WPM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorthand (<input type="checkbox"/> WPM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Receptionist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transcribing | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicating | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing and Editing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faxing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Computer Skills

- Word Processing Software: _____
- Desktop Publishing: _____
- Electronic Mail: _____
- Other Software Skills: _____
- Other Computer Skills: _____

Custodial/Maintenance Skills

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floor Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Janitorial | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioning | <input type="checkbox"/> Valid Drivers License |

Other Skills, including supervisory experience

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Our Beliefs

1) **About God**

God is the Creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three as the Trinity are co-equal and are one God. They are the same in essence, but different in function.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; II Corinthians 13:14; I Peter 1:2

2) **About Jesus**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all. He arose from the dead after three days. He ascended to Heaven and prays for His people continually. He will return in the sky for His people and later come to the earth to judge and reign.

Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5, 14:10-31; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; I Corinthians 15:3-4; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; I Timothy 6:14-15; Hebrews 4:14-15, 7:25; Titus 2:13-14

3) **About The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make mankind aware of our need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. He imparts spiritual gifts as He pleases and produces spiritual fruit for both ministry and character. No one individual gift is given as a sign of salvation or as the manifestation of the infilling of the Spirit. He baptizes us all into the body of Christ at salvation, and wants to fill us repeatedly throughout our lives. John 14:15-26, 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16, 12:4-7, 13; II Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 5:18

4) **About The Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to all mankind. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth and authority for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is totally inerrant and infallible.

Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; II Timothy 1:13, 3:15-16; II Peter 1:20-21

5) **About Mankind**

We are all made in the spiritual image of God to be like Him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creation and love. Although mankind has tremendous potential for good, we are marred by self-centeredness and sin. These have separated us from God.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6, 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; John 3:16

6) **About Salvation**

Because of mankind's lostness and separation from God, we need God's gift of salvation. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can we be saved from sin's penalty. We turn from our sins in repentance and receive Christ by faith. We believe that Jesus died on the cross for us and rose from the dead to purchase eternal life. We are then born again and made into new creations.

John 1:12, 3:3, 14:6; Acts 20:21; Romans 1:4, 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

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- 7) **About Eternity**
We were all created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by our sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. The place of eternal separation from God and ultimate judgment is called Hell. Heaven is the place of perfect eternal fellowship and life with God. After our current life on earth, we begin an eternity in Heaven or Hell.
Matthew 25:41; John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15, 21:27; Hebrews 9:27
- 8) **About Eternal Security**
Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation forever. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. The true child of God will persevere.
John 10:29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10-14; I Peter 1:3-5; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30
- 9) **About The Christian Life**
All Christians should be baptized in water by immersion following salvation. They also must experience worship, nurture and service in a local church. It is also vital to pray, study the Bible, observe the Lord's Supper, witness, give, and live in obedience and faith under the Lordship of Christ through the power of the Spirit.
Psalm 119:9-10; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:9-13; Acts 1:8, 2:41-42; Hebrews 10:25; I John 3:21-22
- 10) **About The Church**
The church is composed of sincere believers and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. It expresses itself both universally and locally. All Christians around the world throughout the history of time compose the church universal. The local church is a contemporary community expression of this larger body. It gathers regularly for worship, instruction, fellowship, and service. Every believer is uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit helping the local church act as one body, representing Jesus Christ on earth.
Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:4-6; Hebrews 10:25
- 11) **About Church Ordinances**
Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is a symbolic act of obedience displaying the new believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It also pictures the believer's death to the old life and resurrection to a new life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby followers of Christ, through the partaking of bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Christ, examine themselves spiritually, and anticipate His return.
Matthew 3:13-17, 26:1-29, 28:29-30; Acts 2:41-42, 8:35-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 10:16, 21, 11:23-29
- 12) **About Last Things**
Jesus promised to come again to receive His people to Himself for a time of fellowship in Heaven. God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly to the earth to judge the nations and rule on the earth. Believers, in their glorified and resurrected bodies, will dwell forever with the Lord, while the lost will be punished forever. Isaiah 2:4, 11; Matthew 16:24, 27, 25:31-45; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11, 17:31; I Corinthians 15:35-38; I Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-9; II Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 19:9-21:8

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First Baptist Church Naples
First Baptist Academy
Employee Character Statement
(Please read and initial)

If I become an employee of First Baptist Church Naples or First Baptist Academy, I understand that Godly character affects all areas of my witness. It is expected that I will maintain biblical standards in my lifestyle and be able to demonstrate the highest standard of excellence in all that I do.

As part of the qualifications for this position, I affirm that I am a “born-again” Christian who knows the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and have been baptized or I am taking the necessary steps toward baptism by immersion. (Matthew 28:19-20, John 3:11-18, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 1:23)

I will manifest by precept and example the highest Christian virtue and personal decorum, serving as a Christian role model (1 Timothy 4:12, Luke 6:40) as an example to fellow First Baptist Church Naples staff, the faculty of First Baptist Academy, the students both in and out of school and to parents in judgment, dignity, respect and Christian living. This includes, but is not limited to, the refraining from such activities as gambling, the use of alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, and the use of vulgar and profane language. (Col. 3:17, Titus 2:7-8, I Thess. 2:10, I Thess. 5:18, 22-23, and James 3:17-18)

I accept the doctrinal teachings of First Baptist Church Naples and the educational philosophy and objectives of First Baptist Academy.

I will faithfully attend, financially support and serve in a local church whose fundamental beliefs are in agreement with the Statement of Faith as written in First Baptist Church Naples, “Our Beliefs”, being active in its Bible study program, growing as a Christian and regularly tithing my income to that local church.

I will read the First Baptist Church Naples Employee Handbook or the First Baptist Academy Naples Faculty and Staff Manual and will comply with all the policies and requirements listed. It is understood that the employee handbook cannot anticipate every circumstance or question about policy. I should consult with the Business Administrator regarding any questions not answered in the handbooks.

I am a Christian and believe that the Bible commands me to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian community in conformity with the biblical injunctions of I Corinthians 6:1-8, Matthew 5:23-24, and Matthew 18:15-20. I agree that any claim or dispute arising out of, or related to, this agreement or to any aspect of the employment relationship, including statutory claims, shall be settled by biblically-based mediation as defined by First Baptist Church Naples.

If God should lead me to other employment, I will not be divisive or hinder the work and reputation of First Baptist Church Naples or First Baptist Academy.

I agree that the Bible dictates the standards for sexual behavior. Any promiscuity, homosexuality, or other deviant sexual behavior is forbidden and as such violates the bona fide occupational requirement of being a Christian role model. The unique roles of the male and female are clearly defined in Scripture. Romans 1:24-32 states that God recognizes homosexuality as sin. Deviation from Scriptural standards is grounds for termination. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 4:1-22, 5:3-5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8, 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:15-17; 1 John 3:1-3)

I have read and understand this statement and will abide by it.

Employee Signature

Employee Name (Typed or Printed)

Date

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Matthew 28:19-20, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

John 3:11-18, “I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven- the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.’

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.’”

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.”

I Peter 1:23, “For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.”

I Timothy 4:12, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”

Luke 6:40, “A student is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Titus 2:7-8, “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”

I Thessalonians 2:10, “You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.”

I Thessalonians 5:18, “give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:22-23, “Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 3:17-18, “But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”

I Corinthians 6:1-8, “If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? But instead, one brother goes to law against another- and this in front of unbelievers!

The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated? Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.”

Matthew 5:23-24, “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 18:15-20, “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you

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have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

'Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them.'

Romans 1:24-32, *"Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator- who is forever praised. Amen.*

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

Romans 12:1-2, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

I Corinthians 6:9-20, *"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

'Everything is permissible for me'- but not everything is beneficial. 'Everything is permissible for me'- but I will not be mastered by anything. 'Food for the stomach and the stomach for food'- but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'The two shall become one flesh.' But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

Ephesians 4:1-22, *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit- just as you were called to one hope when you were called- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

*'When he ascended on high,
he led captives in his train
and gave gifts to men.'*

(What does 'he ascended' mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.

*You, however, did not come to know Christ that way.”***Ephesians 5:3-5**, *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person- such a man is an idolater- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”*

I Thessalonians 4:3-8, *“It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.”*

I Timothy 4:12, *“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”*

2 Timothy 2:19-22, *“Nevertheless, God’s solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.”*

In a Large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

I Peter 1:15-16, *“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”*

I Peter 2:15-17, *“For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”*

I John 3:1-3, *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.”*

New International Version

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