
CBM Policy of Separation

Please read the following, sign where indicated, and return to the address above.

The God who is love is likewise the God who is holy; in Him is found the perfect blend of holiness and love. God expects His followers to reflect both traits simultaneously: loving holiness and holy love.

Holy love and loving holiness oblige the believer to love a world of lost men while maintaining separation from the pattern of thought and deed from which God himself is altogether separated. This principle finds its outworking in the biblical doctrine of separation. *Personal* separation has to do with individual behavior and relationships; *ecclesiastical* separation is the application of the principle to dealings within and between churches and church-related bodies.

In both personal life and professional relationships, all missionaries, volunteers, Board members, staff, and employees are expected to maintain a level of separation that pleases God and facilitates good working relationships with supporting churches and ministerial colleagues.

Personally, the missionary should refrain from any behavior inconsistent with a walk of holiness. Without deferring to a specific list of behavior "do's and don'ts," his lifestyle should be blameless before the world and pleasing in God's sight. He should guard the expression of his Christian liberty so that he does not become a "stumbling block" to weaker brothers. In the realm of "doubtful things" he will willingly conform to higher standards than he might otherwise hold, in order to avoid unnecessary offense.*

In relationships with churches and church-related bodies, the missionary and his ministries must avoid any formal ecumenical affiliation that would call into question his total commitment to the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God and their expression in the practice of the Mission and/or his commissioning church. This means he will not only reject extreme ecumenism, such as found in the World and National Councils of Churches, but also the compromise of movements and organizations that attempt to bring fundamentalists, evangelicals, charismatics and others together for common religious purposes, such as cooperative evangelism, men's and women's movements, and missionary endeavor.

All missionaries, volunteers, Board members, staff, and employees are expected to affirm the position of the Mission as stated above, and to implement it with a gracious spirit.

**Reflecting a general lowering of standards in the Christian community, some have made social drinking a debatable issue: the Mission makes it clear that the use of intoxicating beverages or drugs for non-medicinal purposes is expressly forbidden.*

I affirm my agreement with the Policy of Separation as stated above. I agree to conduct my ministry in accord with these principles. I will not seek cooperation or alignment with organizations and individuals who, though orthodox in doctrine, fail to maintain comparable standards of separation.

SIGNATURE

SPOUSE

DATE