

# JBU Community Covenant

Since its inception in the summer of 1919, John Brown University has been an educational institution committed to the transformation of students. The university equips people in their intellectual, spiritual, and practical lives by providing Christ-centered liberal arts and professional education. The university is Christian and its influence has a clear connection and reliance on a strong “campus community.” Clear expectations help the members of the community live in unity. Therefore, while students are not required to profess personal Christian faith, making the choice to attend JBU means having a sympathetic appreciation for our guiding principles and choosing to abide by our community expectations.

## Core guiding principles for our Community Lifestyle Expectations

The university community has developed four guiding principles that represent our core values. Below are the four Core Guiding Principles, along with illustrative statements to illuminate their meaning and practical lifestyle expectations that we request our traditional program undergraduate students to abide by. Additional details can be found in the Student Handbook.

### 1. **We affirm and honor scripture.**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16*

In the context of God’s grace we: Desire to place Jesus Christ at the center of our belief and practice; Derive the principles for our life together from scripture and live according to its authoritative instruction; Value our interdenominational foundation within the evangelical heritage.

**Community expectation:** We agree that the Scripture is JBU’s authority for faith and life. Therefore, we agree to submit to its instruction regarding the way we should live life. For example, JBU affirms that Scripture encourages people to act with kindness, gentleness, justice, and self-control (Gal. 5:19-23; Col 3:12-14) as well as to refrain from anger, jealousy, theft, gossip, bullying, violence, and dishonesty (Eph. 4:25-32; Col. 3:5-10). Scripture also teaches that we are made for relationships including lifelong friendships. Biblical marriage is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman, and therefore romantic relationships are reserved for a man and woman. Single Christians should engage in healthy relationships remaining celibate and Christians should seek to live with integrity and congruence between their birth sex and their gender identity (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:20-24; Lev 18; Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:18-7:9).

### 2. **We strive to live with integrity.**

*The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. Proverbs 11:3 | See also: Psalm 26; Proverbs 20:7; Philippians 2:3*

In the context of God’s grace we: Strive to live our lives with honesty, willing to share our struggles and victories while attempting to align our actions with Christian principles; Engage in our academic work with honesty and integrity; Seek out mutual accountability through supportive relationships.

**Community expectation:** We agree that the laws of the nation, state, and local community are to be obeyed (Rom 13:1). The only exception to this submission to legally constituted authority would be the very rare occasion when obedience to civil authorities would require disobedience to the moral law of God.

### 3. **We support and care for individual uniqueness.**

*Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4-5 | See also: Eph. 4; Rom. 12; Micah 6:8*

In the context of God’s grace we: Value the racial, ethnic, gender, and religious diversity of our community, honoring the unique gifts and dignity of each person; Show redemptive grace and compassion to each other by speaking the truth in love; Foster an environment of transparency, authenticity, and unconditional love.

**Community expectation:** We agree that preserving human dignity and protecting each other honors God, and that harassment of any kind (verbal, sexual, racial, ethnic, etc.) will not be tolerated. Likewise, pornographic material has no place in a Christian community that seeks to honor God.

### 4. **We actively participate within the community.**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23 | See also: Eph. 4:23*

In the context of God’s grace we: Endeavor to love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves; Encourage one another to engage in the building of our community for the good of all and the glory of God; Put the good of the community above our individual desires, encouraging each other to live lives of purity and holiness.

**Community expectation:** We agree that the life of Christian faith is one of sacrifice and servanthood. In addition to encouraging each other to seek lives of purity and holiness, we also agree to avoid practices that will harm ourselves, one another, or the community as a whole. Such practices include tobacco use, profanity, and gambling. The JBU community has also adopted prudential rules that are consistent with but not required by Scripture (i.e., prohibiting the use of alcohol) in order to guide and encourage the Christian conduct of undergraduate students.

## Guiding Responsibilities

All JBU community members are encouraged to use wisdom and Scriptural guidance when making choices regarding movies and television, video games, computer use, outward appearance/dress, media-generated material, and off-campus entertainment. We are expected to show responsibility for each other, both by example and by challenging others to obedience.

Students in the traditional undergraduate program are called to abide by the community expectations listed above and in the Student Handbook during their enrollment dates of each semester and while enrolled in May term. In addition, they are to abide by the Community Covenant and Student Handbook outside of enrollment dates while living in the residence facilities, participating in study abroad programs, summer sessions, and other JBU sponsored trips or activities.

## Covenant Affirmation

As a student and member of the John Brown University community, I have read the covenant above and agree with fellow university community members to live by its direction.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_