# Policy on Sexuality

*The following policy was adopted by the Council of Eighteen for the Chaplaincy Commission of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches on June 27, 2011.*

The Regular Baptist Chaplaincy Commission exists under the authority of the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, an association of churches that bases its beliefs and practices on the Holy Bible, which we consider to be the Word of God. As such, our ordained and lay leadership are subject to the authority of Scripture, and are responsible to follow our Association’s biblical beliefs.

We believe God ordained human government and that He instructed all people to respect its authority (Rom. 13:1–5; 1 Tim. 2:1–3; 1 Pet. 2:17). But like Daniel in the Hebrew Scriptures, our chaplains sometimes find themselves serving under policies that contradict our faith principles. In such instances our chaplains must fulfill their duties with honor, caring for all people with Christlike compassion, yet without compromising our Biblical convictions (Acts 4; 5), our endorsing credentials, and guidance from the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Serving our country in a chaplaincy ministry is a high calling, but serving God is the chaplain’s highest calling.

We believe that sexual intimacy is designed by God to be expressed only between one man and one woman within the love and bonds of marriage (Gen. 2:23, 24; Matt. 19:4–6; 1 Cor. 7:3–5; Heb. 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God’s gift. Other forms include, but are not limited to, fornication , adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, and pedophilia (Gen. 19:5, 13; 26:8, 9; Lev. 18; Prov. 6:32; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9–11, 18; Rom. 1:24–32; 1 Thess. 4:1–8; 1 Tim. 1:9, 10). God takes sexual misconduct seriously, yet He lovingly offers complete forgiveness to and restoration of those who disobey the Bible’s teaching. Jesus Christ powerfully reveals the “good news” of God’s love for all people.

Realizing that our chaplains are already ministering to members of their communities who engage in unbiblical sexual conduct (though some not openly, as in the military), our chaplains are expected to:

1. Remain faithful to the Biblical values of marriage (as the union of one man and one woman), monogamy, and single celibacy. These principles are central to our understanding of Scripture, the beliefs of our Fellowship of churches, and the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).
2. Maintain consistency in caring for all people, whether they agree or disagree with our Biblical position. A chaplain’s ministry is not to be construed as acceptance of or approval of Biblically errant conduct; however, our chaplains should reflect the character of Jesus Christ, Who did not focus predominantly on condemning but on constructively helping people in their need (John 8:1–11).
3. Fulfill their responsibility to “cooperate without compromise,” caring and facilitating for all people, upholding the constitutional rights of all service members, and participating with those of like precious faith. When our chaplains are called to minister at command functions, they are to be as inclusive as possible, yet respectfully exclusive in the fulfillment of their ecclesiastical responsibilities.