

Walking Free Recovery's (WFR) Guiding Principles

We are a parachurch ministry organization. This means that we are a Christian faith-based organization, started by apostolic men, that works across inter-denominational lines to engage in social welfare and evangelism. We seek to come alongside apostolic churches, and specialize in programs that generally fall outside the programs or competencies of local churches.

The primary mission of WFR is to help apostolic and other men fight for sexual purity. Our primary methods are "support" and "growth" group meetings that are based on the 12 Steps. We believe that the 12 Steps are rooted in Biblical principles and that Jesus Christ is our highest power in achieving sexual purity. As such, we expect that most men in the program will encounter Jesus as they work their recovery.

The following principles help guide the ministry of WFR and its leaders.

1. WFR is a ministry of rigorous honesty – truth. Honesty is always more important than sobriety.
2. WFR is a ministry of those called into service.
3. WFR's primary purpose is serving the Lord by helping individuals fight for sexual purity.
4. WFR is a ministry led by a loving God as expressed through servant leaders and other volunteers.
5. WFR is self-supporting, never dependent on outside contributions.
6. WFR should forever remain non-professional and led by servant volunteers; however our service center may employ special workers as needed.
7. WFR has no opinion on outside issues; hence the WFR name should never be drawn into public controversy. Furthermore, WFR should never endorse, finance, or lend the WFR name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
8. WFR attendance is based on attraction rather than promotion. Word of mouth and non-professional advertising is always preferred and encouraged.
9. It is WFR's foundation to always place the principle of fighting for sexual purity over individual personalities from group members down to leadership. Therefore we are to remain anonymous to those outside of our group and downplay our worldly status and prestige to those within the group.
10. WFR is a ministry of inclusion. Any individual who is fighting for sexual purity is welcome to any meeting.
11. WFR is a ministry of good works as a result of us working alongside the Spirit of God.
12. WFR is a ministry of unity. Our common welfare comes first. The needs of the whole should outweigh the needs of the few.

Detailed Description of WFR's Guiding Principles

Below is a detailed description of each of our twelve guiding principles. These principles are essential to the ministry maintaining its mission and its integrity.

1. WFR is a ministry of rigorous honesty – truth. Honesty is always more important than sobriety.

WFR preaches rigorous honesty above all else. Our disease thrives in secrecy and we must be willing to admit our faults to God, ourselves, and others in order to maintain integrity in our lives and of the ministry. Honesty over sobriety is what we strive for. Sobriety from the destructive behaviors will happen if we are honest about even our smallest struggles. There should never be a negative consequence by leadership for our confessed honesty; only the support and love of those around us to help us be restored from a slip or relapse. Fear, condemnation, and isolation do not help us recover. Love, acceptance, and community do.

Those of us who speak the truth and practice rigorous honesty are fulfilling the scriptures written below:

These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace; (Zechariah 8:16)

O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; (Psalm 15:1-2)

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. (Ephesians 4:25)

2. WFR is a ministry of those called into service.

WFR is led by men who have been prompted by the Spirit of God. This can be done in two particular ways; first, by a deep feeling of want to give back by leading as stirred by the Spirit of God and second, by a facilitator identifying a specific man to learn the ways of an WFR facilitator. We accept either way as a method God uses to call us into service. Called to service does not necessarily mean becoming a WFR facilitator. Other areas of service are volunteering to read the meeting script, interacting in the GroupMe account, being an Accountability Partner, Calling and checking on "Missing Persons", Being a Sponsor or as simple as being helpful. It can be comprised of various methods. Any way we feel called by the Spirit of God to serve the ministry is a right way.

Those of us who have been called into service are fulfilling the scriptures written below:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: (1 Peter 4:10)

Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; (1 Peter 5:2)

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

3. WFR's primary purpose is serving the Lord by helping individuals fight for their sexual purity.

WFR's purpose is at the core of our mission and we should never waiver from this mission. Any activity that pulls us away from this primary purpose should be stopped. Any activity other than our primary purpose of serving the Lord by helping individuals fight for their sexual purity should always be placed second in our hearts and minds. The greater priority is the spread of the gospel through helping others, not the support of the ministry.

Biblical truths that reinforce the need for our primary purpose can be found below:

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

Only fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

4. WFR is a ministry led by a loving God as expressed through His Word, leadership and other volunteer servants.

WFR is led by the Lord through His Word and His Spirit, as it speaks through the leadership which oversees all ministry operations. We believe that WFR, being a para-church organization should follow the hierarchy laid out in scripture. We are to be led by the Lord as He leads the WFR leaders to make decisions that bring glory to God and benefit the men who attend our meetings. All leaders of WFR are volunteer servants of Christ.

Biblical truths that reinforce our leadership structure can be found below:

And he put all things under his feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church. (Ephesians 1:22)

And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (Acts 14:23)

5. WFR is self-supporting never dependent on outside contributions.

WFR is fully supported by the voluntary contributions of its own members. We believe that any public solicitation of funds using the WFR name is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, therapists, or other outside agencies. Furthermore, we believe that acceptance of large gifts from any source (including our own members) that carry any obligations whatsoever is unwise. Finally, it should be a concern if any WFR treasury continues to accumulate funds, beyond prudent

reserves, for no stated WFR purpose. Experience has warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our ministry as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

Biblical truths that reinforce our financial structure can be found below:

Soon afterward He went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: ... who provided for them out of their means. (Luke 8:1-3)

Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, or a bag for your journey, or even two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support. (Matthew 10:9-10)

And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my need. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. (2 Corinthians 11: 9)

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender. (Proverbs 22:7)

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:10)

6. WFR should forever remain non-professional and led by servant volunteers; however, our service center may employ special workers as needed.

WFR defines professionalism as the occupation of counseling persons for fees or hire. Professional counselors are allowed to lead groups and sponsor members as long as they do not refer men to their paid counseling practice or ask men to pay a fee for sponsoring them. All WFR leaders should remain as unpaid volunteers lest the leadership's primary purpose be swayed by financial ideals. Nevertheless, WFR may employ members who possess skills needed by the ministry such as consulting, legal, accounting, or compliance. Nevertheless, our usual WFR "12 Step" work is never to be paid for.

Biblical truths that reinforce our volunteer servant leadership can be found below:

But love [everyone], and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most high... (Luke 6:35)

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24)

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them. (Hebrews 6:10)

7. WFR has no opinion on outside issues; hence the WFR name should never be drawn into public controversy. Furthermore, WFR should never endorse, finance, or lend the WFR name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

No member or leader of WFR should ever use the name of WFR to express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, sexual addiction or pornography reform, or support of any Christian denomination above another. The ministry of WFR opposes no person, ideal, religion, or government. Furthermore, WFR does not endorse, finance, or lend the WFR name to any church, counseling group, rehabilitation facility, or business outside of WFR. Past experience has taught us that problems of money, property, and authority can divert us from our primary purpose. Therefore, WFR should never be a business nor sell products. All books and meeting products are by donation only. Any property acquired by the ministry should not use the WFR name so it can be easily discarded. Although WFR may cooperate or partner with other recovery ministries, it should not go as far as officially endorsing other ministries. WFR can bind itself to no one.

Biblical truths that reinforce our need to avoid public opinion and controversy can be found below:

But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the [Jewish] law, because these are unprofitable and useless. (Titus 3:9)

They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. (1 Peter 3:11)
Don't let them waste their time in endless discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations, which don't help people live a life of faith in God. (1 Timothy 1:4)

8. WFR attendance is based on attraction rather than promotion. Word of mouth and non-professional advertising is always preferred and encouraged.

We believe WFR should avoid sensational advertising. Our names and photos as WFR members should not be broadcast publicly as we should remain anonymous with this respect. This includes using WFR members to promote WFR in a non-WFR public setting, particularly if said member has some “higher” status in society such as actors, musicians, or professional athletes. Attendance should be guided by the principle of attraction, word of mouth, rather than promotion, public advertisement. Nevertheless, public advertisement of the WFR name or mission, without the names or appearance of individual members, is not prohibited if done in the spirit of the 12th Step.

Biblical truths that reinforce our need to promote individually and avoid public promotion can be found below:

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. (Matthew 6:5)

The tools of our trade aren't for marketing or manipulation, but they are for demolishing that entire massively corrupt culture. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

And the master said to the servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full...” (Luke 14:23)

9. It is WFR's foundation to always place the principle of fighting for sexual purity over individual personalities from group members down to leadership. Therefore, we are to remain anonymous to those outside of our group and downplay our worldly status and prestige to those within the group.

We are all one body of Christ. Therefore, we place our principle of fighting for sexual purity over individual personalities. One member of the group is not more important than another member and we must always remain humble in our recovery. We do this by remaining anonymous to those outside of the group and by downplaying our worldly status and prestige to those within the group.

Biblical truths that reinforce our need to act as one body and downplay our status can be found below:

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:15-18)

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. (Romans 10:12)

10. WFR is a ministry of inclusion. Any individual who is fighting for sexual purity is welcome to any meeting.

WFR is a group open to any individual who struggles with any type of sexual purity issue. Anyone can start a “same-sex only” group as the belief is that members of the opposite sex should not be in the same group meetings. Nevertheless, we are to include all individuals, of all races, of all religions, and of all sexual orientations into our groups. We love as Jesus loved and we are open to any individual who would like help restoring a Biblically-based sexual purity in their life. No individual should be shut out, only their behavior. We are accepting of all, but never affirming of an individual’s sexual sin.

Biblical truths that reinforce our need to include everyone can be found below:

So God create man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

11. WFR is a ministry of good works as a result of us working alongside the Spirit of God.

Working alongside the Spirit allows certain “fruits” to appear in our ministry and the lives of those who attend and lead WFR. This “fruit” is also known as “good works” or good deeds done in gratitude of God’s mercy and grace for us. Good works are not a prerequisite for our salvation but are a byproduct of our gratefulness for our salvation and freedom in recovery. Good works appear within us as we work our recovery program and seeing these good works appear bears evidence to the Spirit of God working within us and our ministry. Good works within us can appear as overcoming addictions, lives being restored, broken relationships mended, afflictions healed, marriages and relationships reconciled, and even people saved. We will always see good works as

the Spirit of God penetrates the hearts of broken men and they successfully work their recovery program.

Biblical truths that reinforce the appearance of good works can be found below:

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 1:8)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control' against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

12. WFR is a ministry of unity. Our common welfare comes first. The needs of the whole should outweigh the needs of the few.

We must all work together for a common goal. We are all one body in Christ and as one body we all have different parts. Each member of WFR is but a small part of the entire body. We must be cognizant of this idea that the whole of the ministry comes before our own personal goals or welfare. The needs of the overall ministry come before the needs of one group or one individual member. Nevertheless, after the needs of the ministry are met, the needs of the group or individual can be, and should be met. This should all be accomplished in a spirit of unity in the ministry but more importantly in Jesus Christ.

Biblical truths that reinforce the need for unity and common welfare can be found below:

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

As previously stated, these principles are at the core of who we are and Who we represent, that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is important that we all look to these principles when making decisions that affect or change the ministry and our goals.