

Student Living prepares and challenges students to not only comply with Housing guidelines and the tenets of the Honor Code, but also to become stronger disciples of Jesus Christ by living a life of honor. According to the BYU-Idaho Student Honor statement,

“Living a life of honor:

- Begins as we learn and live the baseline standards of the Honor Code, understand their purposes, and are true to the promises we have made.
- Continues as we heed promptings of the Spirit to raise our personal bar of righteousness and foster a spirit of integrity, sacrifice, consecration, love, service, and willing obedience as students and throughout our lives.
- Prepares our hearts for devoted discipleship in the family, church, work, and community.”

Student Living, then, ought not to solely promote mere compliance, but rather true conversion reflected by a change of heart and behavior congruent with devoted discipleship. This requires the law—commandments, rules, guidelines, and standards—to be “written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart” (2 Corinthians 3: 3) of each and every BYU-Idaho student. It also requires students to value the promises and covenants they have made by living in accordance with them at all times and in all things, and to encourage and support others to do the same.

THE CHALLENGE TO BECOME

“In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to *know* something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to *become* something... the Final Judgment is not just an evaluation of a sum total of good and evil acts—what we have *done*. It is an acknowledgment of the final effect of our acts and thoughts—what we have *become*. It is not enough for anyone just to go through the motions. The commandments, ordinances, and covenants of the gospel are not a list of deposits required to be made in some heavenly account. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a plan that shows us how to become what our Heavenly Father desires us to become.” -Elder Dallin H. Oaks, “The Challenge to Become,” *Ensign*, November 2000, 32–34

Student Living sets the stage for a new culture to emerge within apartment life—a culture based on principles of love, shared responsibility, and mutual respect. In the course of learning and applying the principles of Student Living, students will develop qualities, form habits, practice skills, and establish patterns that will strengthen relationships with roommates and engender a spirit of unity, compassion, forgiveness, and love in the apartment—all of which will serve to bless future homes and families, and prepare students for service in the Church, community, and workplace. In particular, students will *become* men and women of greater integrity, good “neighbors” who understand and embrace their responsibility toward others, and natural leaders who know how to teach and how to learn.

MEN AND WOMEN OF GREATER INTEGRITY

Student Living puts more onus on students to *hold themselves and others responsible* for acting and living in accordance with the promises and covenants they have made. This responsibility and associated accountability will help students become men and women of greater integrity as they learn to live the standards for the right reasons and are afforded the opportunity to “enforce in their own lives that which is ultimately unenforceable” (Elder David A. Bednar). The following quotation contrasts a model of enforcement with a model that facilitates and encourages willing obedience, and describes how the latter more strongly represents a test of true integrity:

“Enforcement is control that comes from ‘*outside*’ of us and can never be effective. Obedience is submission to the will of God that comes from ‘*within*’ us and brings the blessings of heaven. The test of the honor and dress codes is not whether you get caught or if they are consistently enforced. The absolute test of the honor and dress codes is how a student thinks and talks and acts when no one is around to enforce the codes—when no one is checking. The question, then, is whether we will enforce in our own lives that which is ultimately unenforceable. The honor and dress codes are a lesser law test of integrity and honesty.” -Elder David A. Bednar, “In the Path of Their Duty,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, September 1, 1998

By granting students the opportunity to assess and test themselves in relation to the promises and commitments they have made (even and especially when they falter), they will develop greater integrity and become more committed (from within) to living a life of honor. In addition, “a person of integrity will assist others to be honest... People of integrity will neither foster, nourish, embrace, nor share [a] lie” (Elder Marvin J. Ashton, “This Is No Harm,” *Ensign*, May 1982, 9). Therefore, personal integrity will not only influence an individual student to maintain a life of honor, but also stir within him/her the obligation to encourage others to do the same.

GOOD NEIGHBORS

The Savior has commanded us to “love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matthew 22: 39). Student Living provides a structure wherein roommates and floormates will assume greater responsibility for one another, thus creating more opportunities to live this commandment and become better “neighbors.” Elder David A. Bednar described the type of environment that Student Living desires to foster at BYU-Idaho: “We...want an environment on this campus where appropriately and genuinely concerned ‘*neighbors,*’ in the true scriptural sense of the word neighbor, would remind, help, and encourage [one another] to consistently think, speak, and act in a way that invites the Spirit of the Holy Ghost among us” (“In the Path of Their Duty,” BYU-Idaho Devotional, September 1, 1998).

Student Living invites and encourages roommates to be more engaged in one another’s lives and to recognize their responsibility for one another. Elder Alexander B. Morrison further explains this responsibility:

“During a lifetime we oscillate repeatedly between being nurturing shepherds and nurtured sheep. That fact underlines our mutual interdependence—for we are *all* ‘the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand’ (Psalms 95:7). We are responsible for each other—not as our brother’s keeper, but as brothers and sisters freely ‘willing to bear one another’s burdens’ and ‘comfort those that stand in need of comfort’ (Mosiah 18:8–9). We cannot escape that responsibility, nor expect someone else to accept it for us.” -“Fire Where Once Were Ashes,” *Ensign*, August 1990, 7

By understanding and ultimately embracing this responsibility, students will become the type of neighbor described by the Savior in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 27-37). They will recognize when someone is in need, display compassion, and do all within their capacity to assist and serve. They will respect the agency of others, yet not hesitate to reach out in a spirit of love and friendship when a brother or sister is spiritually wounded.

NATURAL LEADERS

Outside the home, the apartment represents the most natural and effective setting for learning and applying the principles of the gospel. Because it is not a program with rigidly defined protocols, Student Living allows students to teach and support one another in the apartment in the most natural way possible. Students will act on principles and pray for guidance as they address unique issues in the apartment that couldn’t possibly be resolved by means of a prescription.

For the Good Samaritan, the moment to serve came naturally as he made his journey. Assisting a wounded man was certainly not part of the Samaritan’s initial plans and inevitably slowed his arrival to his desired destination; nevertheless, he recognized a need and had the courage to act in accordance with his conscience—even the light of Christ bestowed upon us all. Likewise, for BYU-Idaho students, apartment leadership is natural and often unassuming; it is leadership with a small ‘P’. Small ‘P’ leadership occurs without status or station; it is authentic and selfless. It occurs as life occurs—one moment at a time. Small ‘P’ leadership responds to the realities of life and does not cater to convenience. It is also equally proactive in nature—strengthening and building others by precept and example.

Elder Henry B. Eyring prophesied that BYU-Idaho students “will be natural leaders who know how to teach and how to learn...[and] will become legendary for their capacity to build the people around them and to add value wherever they serve (“A Steady, Upward Course,” *BYU-Idaho Devotional*, September 18, 2001). Student Living contributes to the fulfillment of this prophecy by empowering students to teach, lead, and learn from one another in an environment governed by honor and void of unhealthy authority. Students will indeed become natural, small ‘P’ leaders as they strive to support one another in living a life of honor and follow the final counsel given to the lawyer who learned an inspired lesson of love and leadership: “Go and do thou likewise” (Luke 10: 37).