

Grace Church Behavioral Standard

It is the purpose of the Grace Church student ministry to provide Jr. and Sr. High school students with an environment of love, acceptance, and nurturing where they are taught that God has established moral standards of R.I.G.H.T. and W.R.O.N.G. in the world which they live. Our leadership staff will encourage and reward Respectful, Involved, Gracious, Helpful, and Truthful behavior and will discourage and discipline Wrathful, Rebellious, Opposing, Negative, and Greedy behavior. This behavioral standard is not our own creation but we believe has been revealed to us through God's Word the Bible. It in no way classifies certain students as "bad" but identifies their need to be instructed about the standards and principles of a relationship with God.

These guidelines, policies, and principles are provided as a proactive way to insure clear communication among members of the student ministry leadership team. We will enforce these standards because we are concerned about the future of the students in our community. We believe the moral decay and personal struggles most students are experiencing can be prevented if they are made aware and comply that God is real and that He has established moral standards of right and wrong by which all people must live. The following are Scriptural disciplinary guidelines and procedure that our student ministry will uphold and enforce.

Behavioral Guidelines: (Deut. 8:5; Prov. 3:11-12, 6:23, 13:24, 22:16, 19:18, 23:13-14, 29:15-17; Heb.12:4-11; Rev. 3:19)

Encourage R.I.G.H.T. Behavior (actions that are rewarded)

Respectful

love God, love others (Ex. 20:3-7; Mt. 5:43ff, 22:37-39; Mk. 12:29-31; Lk. 6:31, 35; Jn. 14:34-35, 15:12-13, 17; I Cor. 13, 16:14; Gal. 5:22; I Pet. 4:8; I Jn. 4:7-21), *obedient/submissive* (Mt. 28:20; Rom. 13:1, 5; Eph 5:21, 6:1; Tit 3:1; I Pet 2:13f), *self-control* (Gal 5:23; I thes 5:8; Tit 2:6; I Pet 1:13, 4:7).

Involved

learner (Ps. 119:9-11), *unity/devotion/harmony/peace* (Rom. 12:10, 16; Gal. 5:22; Eph 4:3, 13; Phil. 2:2; Heb. 12:14; I Pet. 3:8), *work* (Eph 4:28; Col. 3:17, 23).

Gracious

humility/gentleness/meekness (Mt. 5:5, 18:4, 23:12; Lk. 14:11, 18:14; Gal. 5:23; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; Tit. 3:2; I Pet. 3:8), *forgiveness/merciful* (Mt 18:23-35; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13), *compassionate* (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 3:8), *accepting* (Rom. 14:1, 15:7), *good speech* (Col. 4:5-6; I Tim. 4:12; Jms. 3:8-10; Prov. 22:4), *polite/courteous/hospitable* (Mt. 7:12; Rom. 12:13), *joyful* (Gal. 5:22), *patient* (Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12; Jms. 5:7), *sympathetic* (I Pet. 3:8).

Helpful

servanthood (Mt. 20:26-28, 23:11; Mk. 9:35, 10:43-45; Lk. 22:26-27; Jn. 12:25-26; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 6:7; I Pet. 4:10), *selfless* (Mk. 9:35; Rom. 12:10; Phil. 2:3-4), *encouraging* (Rom. 14:19), *giving* (Mk. 12:44; II Cor. 8:2-3, 7, 9:6-7; Prov. 25:21, 28:27), *kind/good* (I Pet. 3:8; Gal. 5:22, 6:10; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:12; Tit. 3:1).

Truthful

Honest (Ex. 20:16; Rom. 1:31; Eph. 4:25, 6:14; Col. 3:9), *committed/faithful* (Mt. 5:37; Gal. 5:22; Jms. 5:12).

Discourage W.R.O.N.G. Behavior (actions that require discipline)

Wrathful

anger/rage (Mt. 5:22; Gal. 5:20; Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8; Jms. 1:19-20; Prov. 29:11), *hatred* (Gal. 5:20), *hurtful words* (Jms. 3:8-10), *vengeful* (I Pet. 3:9; Mt. 5:39; Rom. 12:17-21; I Pet. 3:9)

Rebellious

rebellious (Rom. 13:2), *disobedient* (Rom. 1:30; Eph. 5:6), *deceitful* (Rom. 1:29; Ps. 34:12-14), *sexual immorality* (I Cor. 6:9; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; I Thes. 4:3; Heb. 12:16), *lust* (Mt. 5:28; Col. 3:5; I Pet. 4:3), *thievery* (I Cor. 6:10; Eph. 4:28), *drunkenness* (I Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21; I Pet. 4:3), *witchcraft* (Gal. 5:20).

Opposing

defiant (I Pet. 2:13f), *demanding of rights* (Mt. 16:24-25; Prov. 21:1-3, 29:15), *argumentative* (Phil. 2:14), *unwilling to forgive* (Rom. 1:31), *discord* (Gal. 5:20), *blasphemy* (Mk. 3:28), *favoritism* (Jms. 2:1).

Negative

blame/judgmental (Mt. 7:1-5; Lk. 6:37-38; Rom. 14:13; Jms. 4:11-12), *envious* (Ex. 20:17; Rom. 1:29; Gal. 5:20-21; Prov. 23:17), *complaining* (Phil. 2:14), *unaccepting* (Rom. 15:7), *language/obscenity* (Rom. 1:29-30; I Cor. 6:10; Eph. 4:29, 5:4; Col. 3:8; Jms. 3:1-12; Prov. 12:18, 15:1), *enjoy failure* (Prov. 24:17-18), *bitterness* (Ephs. 4:31), *lazy/uninvolved* (Prov. 24:33-34), *worry* (Mt. 6:25, 31, 34).

Greedy

prideful/arrogant (Rom. 1:29, 30, 12:16; Phil. 2:3-4; Prov. 27:1-2), *selfish* (Gal. 5:20; Phil. 2:3), *greedy* (I Cor. 6:10; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5).

Behavioral Policies:

Authority of Leadership

Adults who volunteer their time and energy to the Grace Church student leadership team are deserving of the utmost respect. Students who participate at Grace activities are expected to follow the instructions and decisions of ALL leaders. Obeying those instructions and decisions is a condition of remaining at any meeting or activity.

Worship and Classroom (on-site programs)

Times of teaching and worship are primary in student ministry. Students and other members who come to Grace in order to learn and grow deserve to do so in an atmosphere where that is possible without hindrance. Leaders have a responsibility to maintain that atmosphere. Students who disrupt that atmosphere against the behavioral guidelines can and will be dealt with appropriately. When a student is being disruptive, leaders will have permission and responsibility of properly carrying out the disciplinary procedure.

Travel and Trips (off-site programs)

Grace Church assumes heavy responsibility when taking students on trips. For the entire group to function well on trips, obeying and respecting leadership is essential. Students who are involved in travel/trips will be expected to obey all verbal instructions, participate in scheduled activities, remain with the group and will not be allowed to 1.) obtain body-piercing or tattoos, to be 2.) involved in physical affection, stealing, fighting, vandalism, or be in 3.) possession of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, pornography, or a dangerous weapon. When a student is in opposition to this policy, leaders will have permission and responsibility of properly carrying out the disciplinary procedure. Students who may be removed from a travel/trip will be the responsibility of parents.

Physical Affection

In order to maintain unity within our ministry, romantic physical affection is not appropriate and will not be accepted. The physical affection of couples is a distraction to themselves/others and takes away from the overall purpose of any activity. Couples are not allowed to show any physical affection or be alone together at any time. Flirtatious or playful "touching" will not be allowed (i.e. back rubs, sitting too close, holding hands). Students who have mutually excluded themselves as a couple will be encouraged to be involved with others.

Dress Code

We respectfully ask that our male and female Christian students dress in a manner that glorifies Christ. This means avoiding clothing that is too short, low-cut, tight, or revealing. Clothing should also not be worn with wording or pictures that would be distracting or not of a Christian nature. For girls, we ask that you avoid wearing tank tops, short shorts, or short skirts. For guys, we ask that you not wear tank tops, sleeveless shirts or short shorts. Those considered dressed inappropriately will be respectfully asked to change.

Van Travel

At all times the driver of the vehicle is in charge and is responsible for the safe arrival to any given destination. For safety and legal purposes all students/leaders riding in a vehicle sponsored by Grace MUST wear a safety belt and will not be allowed to rough house, be excessively loud, or in any way be a distraction to the driver. At the conclusion of any trip students are responsible for helping clean up any mess that has been made.

Disciplinary Procedure:

First Offense (awareness)

Make general announcement of R.I.G.H.T./W.R.O.N.G. behavior and inform them of the consequences. Upon clear violation (intentional rebellion) of behavior standard or policies student will be *made aware* of specific misbehavior and told the next time they will lose privilege or isolated. Student given opportunity to change behavior without discipline.

Second Offense (loss of privilege/isolated)

Upon clear violation of behavioral standard or policies student will *immediately lose privilege / be isolated* from the rest of the group and told the next time they will be removed permanently. After temporary loss of privilege or isolation student will be returned to activity with encouragement, love, and compassion. The student will be given a second opportunity to change behavior.

Third Offense (removal)

Upon clear violation of behavioral standard of policies student will be *immediately removed / sent home* and parents will be informed. Repeated problems will be dealt with on an individual basis including student and parents. In most cases a student who has been removed from an activity will be welcome at the next activity.

General Disciplinary Principles:

Discipline will be undergirded with encouragement, love, and compassion

Consistency, students will all be treated equally

If it is said, it will be enforced

Attempts will be made to discern between willful rebellion and ignorance