

707 Standards and Commitment

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THE GATHERING PLACE

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THE GATHERING PLACE 707 MINISTRY COMMITMENT

I acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life and have a personal relationship with Him.

I am committed toward growing and maturing my relationship with God through personal times with the Lord, and involvement in attendance, accountability, and discipleship training in a local church.

I acknowledge and am committed to remaining in submission to those who are in authority over me in my family, in my church, and community.

I am committed to choices and a lifestyle that are both godly and “above reproach” knowing that my lifestyle is a model for the students that I work with.

I am making a minimum one-year commitment to being a 707 leader.

I will attend the periodic fellowship/training meetings held especially for 707 group leaders.

I commit to being a responsible steward of time and preparation for this ministry.

I understand and agree that the local church has final responsibility for the discipleship of believers. I therefore understand and agree to the following:

- To operate under the authority of a local church.
 - To actively participate in that local church.
 - To personally submit to involved in discipleship through that local church.
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BIBLICAL EXPECTATIONS FOR 707 LEADERS

You are a member of the body of Christ having received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life (Romans 12:5, Ephesians 2:8-9).

You are a member, in good standing, of a local church and have placed yourself under the leadership of that body of believers (Acts 2:42).

You are living a life of personal integrity and moral uprightness, both publicly and privately (Ephesians 5:3-12, 1 Timothy 3:2,7).

Romans 13:13-14 “let us behave properly as in the day not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

You are seeking to fulfill “The Great Commission” of Jesus to “go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19-20). This involves sharing your faith with others as well as being an example to others.

You desire to do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and for His glory (Colossians 3:17).

The prayer of The Gathering Place staff is that these expectations become the norm for all of our lives as we continue our walk with Jesus Christ. If you see these expectations as unreasonable and something you do not seek to strive for in your life, please contact a staff person at The Gathering Place. We will gladly answer any question and/or discuss any concerns you may have.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS RELATED TO A 707 GROUP

As the leader of a group, you are expected to communicate to the group about changes in schedule or place of meeting. You are also expected to communicate regularly with the 707 Director about needs or changes in your group as well as give regular updates on the general health of your group. Additionally, you will be expected to attend 707 Leader Gatherings for training and fellowship.

Set a date, time, and place for the group. You will want to consider all the participants in the group when doing so. Most groups meet once a week before school at 7:07 am. However, some groups meet in the afternoon or evening. Groups meet at schools, in restaurants, churches, businesses, etc.. (If you need assistance finding a location please feel free to contact the Gathering Place Office) The GP requires that every group be led by two adults and communicate the time and place of their meetings to the Director in order to promote an environment of safety for the students, leaders, and The GP.

Love your students! Ministry is the product of relationships. A great way to further develop relationships with your group members is to periodically make contact with group members outside of regular group meetings whether it's a phone call, letter, or activity. This demonstrates to the individual that you care about him/her.

THE GATHERING PLACE POINTS OF AGREEMENT

WE BELIEVE:

THE SCRIPTURES

That all Scripture (Old and New Testament) is inspired by God (II Tim. 3:16,17). The Scriptures are inerrant and having been preserved by God, are now the supreme and final authority in faith and life.

Those who teach for The Gathering Place commit themselves to faithfully and accurately teach the word of God as it has been interpreted throughout the centuries by orthodox Christians.

GOD

That there is only one true and living God, existing in three persons – the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit – each a distinct person, but all of one essence and all having the same nature, perfection, and attributes, and each worthy of worship, confidence and obedience.

JESUS CHRIST

That Jesus Christ is the Son of God, 2nd person of the Trinity, eternal, became incarnate by the work of the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, shed his blood on Calvary as a vicarious substitute, was buried, rose again bodily, and ascended to the Father according to the Scriptures.

Jesus is the only way of salvation – John 14:6; Acts 4:12

All authority and power in heaven and on earth have been given to Him – Matthew 18:8; Philippians 2:9-11

HOLY SPIRIT

That the Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Trinity, very God, co-existent with the Father and the Son. And that the Holy Spirit is the chief agent in the regeneration of the soul, the chief convector of sin, and the comforter of the believer, and that simultaneous with regeneration, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and places him into the Body of Christ.

The Scriptures in Ephesians 5:18ff. command us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. An evidence of being filled with the Spirit is how we relate to one another (Eph 4:1-3) and whether the fruit of the Spirit is present in our lives (Gal 5:22-26).

HUMANITY

That humans are the direct creation of God – body, soul, and spirit – and are made in the image of God.

Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the fall of mankind, and incurred both a physical and spiritual death for all. As a result all mankind is born with a sin nature and unable through their own efforts to stand before a holy God.

SATAN

That Satan was originally created a perfect being. He rebelled against God. As a result, he became depraved, and became the Devil and adversary of God and His people, and leader of a host of angels who fell with him. Satan has been judged and was defeated at the cross and awaits his ultimate doom at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

SALVATION

By grace, through faith, all that repent and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again by the Holy Spirit and thus become the children of God. Jesus is our sole means of salvation; no works of righteousness by us can produce salvation for us. However, the fruit of true saving faith in a believer will be good works. Titus 2:11-14; Ephesians 2:8-10

SECOND COMING AND JUDGMENT

In the literal, visible, and personal return of Jesus Christ for the Church, and that He will judge the living and the dead, the righteous inheriting eternal life, and the wicked incurring eternal punishment.

LOCAL CHURCH

That the New Testament Church is a local body of believers with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The Gathering Place expects staff members and volunteers to act with Godly character as modeled by Jesus Christ.

Our witness in the community is deeply affected by the actions and words of the men and women who are affiliated with The GP. Below is a list of some items that provide guidance in handling various situations related to potential problems.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

Any offensive activity or any type of abuse, whether sexual, physical, emotional, or neglect, will not be tolerated by any Gathering Place activity.

Any offensive or abusive conduct or allegation will lead to immediate removal of the individual in question from Gathering Place activities until review by proper authorities is conducted.

Social Media

Please make sure that what you post is God-honoring. Watch your language and the content of the pictures you share as well. Students don't miss a thing. Your reputation with your group is a valuable thing!

If your social media accounts include questionable content from your past or present, please consider editing or deleting things you do not want your students or their parents to see.

God desires His children to lead pure lives of holiness.

While upholding God's standard of holiness, we strongly affirm God's love and redemptive power in the individual who chooses to follow Him. Our desire is to encourage individuals to follow Jesus and turn away from any impure choices. The Bible is clear in teaching of sexual sin including sex outside of marriage and homosexual acts. This lifestyle is not the best that God has for us and all GP volunteers and staff are expected to live by these Biblical guidelines.

- Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."
 - The Bible is clear in its teaching of sexual sin including sex outside of marriage and homosexual acts. Neither of these constitutes activity acceptable to God.
 - 1Corinthians 6:9-11 "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."
 - 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 "Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body."
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- Ephesians 4:17-19 “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”
 - Romans 1:21-21 “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.”
 - Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”
 - Galatians 6:1-3 “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”

While upholding God’s standard of holiness, we strongly affirm God’s love and redemptive power in the individual who chooses to follow Him. Our desire is to encourage individuals to trust in Jesus and turn away from any impure sexual activity.

PREVENTING OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES, ABUSE, AND ALLEGATIONS

Be aware of what you say. Check your conduct carefully to ensure you are not the cause of verbal, physical, or negligence abuse. Refrain from idioms or vernacular that could be viewed as negative or suggestive.

Watch what you do. Be cautious of and avoid “bad” touching. Physical contact in group settings is ok and can be a positive dynamic. Be cautious of any touching actions that can be misleading to individuals receiving and those observing.

Do not put yourself in a compromising situation. Be careful where you meet. No one-on-one contact between students and adults in private. Always meet in a public place in plain view of others.

Do not rely on your good reputation or put yourself in a position where it is your word against another individual's. Use the “buddy system” in private setting as standard procedure when counseling, transporting, and working with students.

Be aware of any fantasy relationships. Refrain from spending an inordinate amount of time with any one student that could lead to a student misreading your interest in him or her. Be aware of how you express your concern for the student. When you express love, be sure students know you mean Christian love.

Focus on these spiritual guidelines while working with young persons:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:22 “Avoid every kind of evil.”
 - Philippians 4:8 “Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things.”
 - James 3:8-10 “...but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.” God desires His children to lead pure lives of holiness.
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