

Connect Group Leader Expectations

Exemplifying high moral commitment, Christ Place Church Connect Group leaders are asked to maintain a disciplined life of Bible reading, prayer and fasting. "Chasing the Ideal" is one of our core values here at Christ Place; and part of that is continually improving in areas we've written in this document. We've included the Scriptural "why" behind the "what" one each standard.

Gossip, Abusive Language, or Divisive Discussions

Do not instigate, participate in, or allow gossip and/or abusive language to happen in your group. This is not limited to "Official Group Meetings", this is a standard of behavior every believer should have inside of the group setting and outside of the group setting. As a Connect Leader, you not only represent Jesus but also Christ Place, so we expect you to keep this standard in mind when posting on your social media.

*A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends.
Proverbs 16:28*

The dictionary defines gossip as "casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true." One pastor takes it a step further and defines gossip as "having a conversation about other people, that does not benefit them." (See also Proverbs 11:9, Proverbs 11:13, Psalm 141:3, Ephesians 4:29)

We all have sociopolitical views and opinions on "the way things ought to be." At CP, we're glad there's isn't a one-size-fits-all individual, but rather a multi-layered body of Christ with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. However, as ministry leaders, try your best to avoid one-sided political rants both in your group discussions and on your social media posts. If it comes up, be mindful of not allow the conversation to move too far or too long from Scripture and your primary discussion. It's the mature leader who understands that we don't all think alike simply because we follow Jesus; and the savvy leader knows how to navigate potentially polarizing topics tactfully, and then bring the conversation back to Scripture and Jesus.

*¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited...¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
Romans 12:16,18*

The Use of Illegal Drugs/The Abuse of Prescription Drugs

While Christ Place welcomes everyone and all the baggage that they bring, we do expect that our Connect Group leaders abstain from the use of illegal drugs, and the abuse/overuse of prescription drugs. Scripture calls us (church leaders) to live at a higher standard than the unchurched.

*Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly.
James 3:1*

As a leader inside the Church, we have the responsibility to reflect Christ and his values in everything we say and do, everywhere we are. If we do not continue to become more like Christ in our leadership and personal

conduct, our witness and our ability to reach the unchurched will be greatly diminished. (See also 1 Peter 5:8, 1 Peter 1:13.)

Good Stewardship

Stewardship is the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. While nobody is perfect in stewarding the resources they have, it is biblical to grow in your ability to steward your resources.

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy
1 Corinthians 4:2

“Live to Give” is one of our values, here at Christ Place. “We sacrifice the things we love, for the things we love more” is the heartbeat of this value. Resources include, not only finances, but also your time, and talents as well; so growing in stewardship is not simply giving more money, but learning how to use your resources to advance the Kingdom of God. (See also Colossians 3:17, Psalm 24:1, Proverbs 3:9.)

Indulging in alcoholic beverages beyond reasonable moderation

As a disciple of Jesus, you carry the name of God wherever you go and whatever you do. So, we need to be mindful and observant of the Wisdom scripture gives us regarding alcohol.

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but be filled with the [Holy] Spirit and constantly guided by Him
Ephesians 5:18

As God’s people, we need to be set apart from the world, and one of the ways we can do this is not allowing ourselves to over-indulge in alcohol to the point of drunkenness. Something to consider is the “stumbling block” principle found in Romans 14:13-23. It’s possible that someone in your group struggles with addiction in this area, and the right thing to do is not put that person in a position, by what they see in your behavior or online posts, where they’re tempted or confused about what scripture says about this. (See also Proverbs 20:1, Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, Galatians 5:19-21, Proverbs 31:4-5, 1 Peter 4:10.)

Sexual Immorality

Sexual immorality is the “selling off” of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship.

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body
1 Corinthians 6:18

God created a specific boundary for sexuality, and that boundary is within a marriage relationship between one man and one woman. Anything outside of that, is considered outside of the God-ordained design for sex and is harmful. (See also Ephesians 5:3, Galatians 5:19, Hebrews 13:4, Matthew 5:28, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5.)

All behaviors which might cause Christ to grieve and others to stumble

As disciples of Christ, we have died to our former way of life and are now made new in Jesus. Because of this, we have a responsibility to consider others and their preferences before we consider ourselves and our preferences.

But God does care when you use your freedom carelessly in a way that leads a fellow believer, still vulnerable to those old associations, to be thrown off track. For instance, say you flaunt your freedom by going to a banquet thrown in honor of idols, where the main course is meat sacrificed to idols. Isn't there great danger if someone still struggling over this issue, someone who looks up to you as knowledgeable and mature, sees you go into that banquet? The danger is that he will become terribly confused—maybe even to the point of getting mixed up himself in what his conscience tells him is wrong.

1 Corinthians 8:9-10(MSG)

As Christ-followers, everything we say and do is going to be intensely criticized and scrutinized, and we need the strength of the Holy Spirit to help us live our lives in a God-honoring way, that is blameless. This is the standard to which we aspire. Chasing the ideal one of our values here at Christ Place, and it isn't just a suggestion, it's a necessity if we want to be the most efficient in our ministry. (See also Romans 14:13-23, Malachi 2:8, 1 John 2:10.)

Know that pastors and key leaders are here for you, for support, accountability, and prayer. We need each other for all three. You are loved and respected, no matter what, so when you struggle, reach out.