

LEADER'S COMMITMENT

We exist to lead people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus.

Our leaders are given the opportunity to lead in positions of influence and authority and our prayer is that they are consistently seeking to uphold the Biblical Standards of Spiritual Leadership. There are four components of this commitment that we would like our leaders to engage.

1. KNOWLEDGE of Biblical Standards

1 Timothy 3:8-13 NIV: ⁸ *In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.* ⁹ *They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.* ¹⁰ *They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.* ¹¹ *In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.* ¹² *A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well.* ¹³ *Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

A Leader:

- **Is Worthy of Respect v.8**
 - In every area of life (family, work, community) is respected as a leader.
 - Carries themselves as a leader and recognizes that others are always observing.
- **Is Sincere (Not Double Tongued) v.8**
 - Not hypocritical or deceitful in any area of life.
 - Does not agree in one room and then disagree in another.
 - Does not gossip or attempt to solve problems that are not ours to solve.
 - Stands for unity with our brothers and sisters and seeks to understand decisions with the person who made the decision when needed.
- **Is Not Indulging in Much Wine v.8**
 - Does not abuse alcohol or any other substance to disconnect from everyday stresses and realities.
 - Does not drink to drunkenness. Drunkenness is defined as doing, saying or thinking anything that you wouldn't if you were not under the influence.
- **Is Not Pursuing Dishonest Gain (Greedy for Money) v.8**
 - Manages their finances in accordance to biblical principles and truths.
 - Stands in confidence with how they are spending their money.
- **Must Keep Hold of the Deep Truths for the Faith v.9**
 - Can confidently lead someone to salvation and their next step in following Jesus.
 - Understands and believes the NLC 8 – the beliefs of faith at Next Level Church.
- **Has a Clear Conscience v.9**
 - Has experienced Freedom or are actively pursuing freedom in the areas of their life that would hold them back from being all that God has called them to be.
 - Has dealt with their past and has no intentional lifestyle of sin.
 - Willing to continually cross their "threshold of scary."

- **Must First Be Tested v.10**
 - Has held a leadership position before – in or outside of the church.
 - Actively serving at Next Level Church and tested in their motives to reach people for Jesus.
 - Has experience leading people through good times and bad and can be an extension of God’s love throughout.
- **Spouse Must Be Worthy of Respect, Not Malicious Talkers, Temperate and Trustworthy in Everything They Do v.11**
 - Spouse must show moderation in everything they do.
 - Spouse continually speaks life about church members, staff members, and Church’s decisions; does not give in to gossip.
 - Note: If you have a non-believing spouse, this does not discredit you from leadership within this House.
- **Is Faithful to Their Spouse v.12**
 - Does not participate in emotional or physical affairs.
 - Does not participate in inappropriate behavior around anyone of the opposite sex.
- **Manages Their Household Well v.12**
 - Spiritually is leading their home by always making God the center of everything they do.
 - Committed to constantly working on their marriage, as well as, loving and supporting their family.

2. GUIDELINES for Leadership Honor Code

As a leader, you are an essential part of our Next Level Church family. We have a responsibility to develop and exhibit mature Christian character through our actions and behaviors as we lead others.

As Christians, the way we present ourselves to others is of vital importance to the way others perceive Christ. Our conduct should never be a misrepresentation of Christ, but should exemplify the best qualities of a mature believer and servant leader.

While serving the Body of Christ as a leader at Next Level Church, we commit to representing Christ in all we do. In our thoughts, words, behaviors, and attire, we seek to model the Biblical Standards in all situations.

Exemplifying the highest moral commitment, Next Level Church leaders are to maintain a disciplined lifestyle of Bible reading, prayer, and fasting (SOAP, SOAK, and SEEK). We must also refrain from such things as:

- Profanity
- Smoking or chewing tobacco
- Gambling
- Indulging in much wine or other alcoholic beverages
- Dishonest gain
- Illegal drugs
- Pornography
- Sexual immorality
- All behaviors which might cause Christ to grieve and others to stumble

By providing an example in speech and action, we lead others to becoming a fully engaged follower of Jesus. This is a way of life measured by the heart and commitment of each leader in this House. We should regard it as an essential part of our development that we desire because of our love for God and God's love for us. This is not to be viewed as an imposition or restriction.

3. PEER ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability with brothers and sisters in the Next Level Church family is of deep spiritual importance. When we surround ourselves with accountability, we limit the access that Satan has to us and increase our opportunity for vulnerability and authentic community.

James 5:16, 19-20 says, *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective ... My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins."*

Accountability as described in this passage has the powerful potential to change the course of someone's life. The key to accountability is prayer. Accountability is not designed as an avenue to vent our frustrations or to gossip, but to receive healing and redirection toward our loving Heavenly Father. We all are in need of a safe place where we can be real and the other person can sharpen us in return for the purpose of becoming more like Him.

Components of Healthy Accountability:

- **Vulnerability** – The health and effectiveness of accountability is directly correlated to the level of vulnerability of the individuals involved. The deeper the level of vulnerability, the healthier and more effective accountability will be. No sector of life should be off limits and nothing should be left in the shadows. The goal is to continue to bring darkness to the light for the purpose of healing.
- **Communication** – All sharing should be done in a confidential manner that exhibits both the truth and grace of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No truth that would help your brother or sister become more like Christ should go unsaid and everything that is said should be said in love.
- **Prayer** – The goal of vulnerability is not just to share information and to create personal accountability. Rather, it is to spiritually carry the burden of one another in prayer as described in Galatians 6:1-2. *"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* We should be creating a spiritual covering of protection by praying for each other continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We should be praying with each other when we are together and we should be praying for each other when we are apart.
- **Timing** – Regular communication via text, phone calls, or meeting in person will help to provide real-time support and accountability. Determine a rhythm that works best for you and those you are in accountability with and stick to it!

4. NEXT STEPS:

Perfection is not the goal – that is why we have Jesus! The goal is that on a daily basis our lives would be “pointed” (in every area) toward the direction of becoming more like Jesus Christ.

Which way is your arrow pointing?



Less like Christ

More like

Christ

Remember: God's love for us is the motivator of our pursuit to becoming more like Him.

Where do you need to grow in your pursuit of Biblical Standards?

Identify 2-3 points that are in need of growth in order to become more like Christ.

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Where do you need to grow in the realm of our Leadership Honor Code?

Identify 2-3 areas of your character that are in need of growth in order to become like Christ.

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What action steps can you take to see this growth achieved?

Taking the areas identified, what goals can you set in place to reach more health and growth?

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The Commitment:

I have watched Pastors Matt and Sarah teach through the Biblical Standards of Leadership and have read the Leaders Commitment and feel that I have a thorough understanding of the guidelines that are set for me as a leader in this House.

I agree to try to follow all areas of the Leaders Commitment in my life and in the ministry which I am engaged in. I understand that I will be held accountable by my leaders to see that my arrow remains pointed in the direction of becoming more like Jesus.

Upon signing this commitment, I hereby formally accept the position as a leader within this House and agree to the expectations outlined above.

Signature

Date

Printed Name