



# ***Fire Department Staff Handbook***

***Harvest Church 7/08  
(Discipleship and Pastoral Care)***

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**Ps 37:30-31**

***30 The godly offer good counsel; they know what is right from wrong. 31 They fill their hearts with God's law, so they will never slip from his path. NLT***

## ***The Fire Department Mission Statement 6/05*** **(Harvest Church/CLDI)**

**Our mission is to help those in need who seek our assistance and are interested in becoming completely committed Christ followers. We believe this wonderful process involves the following three phases: every human being needs *"to get saved* (to yield to Christ's Lordship - John 3:36), *to get well* (to think about life as God thinks - Matt 11:28-30), *and to get going* (to joyfully serve others - Gal 6:2)." Our approach involves loving our friends unconditionally as Christ would love them and guiding them to emotional health with the Word of God as our *sole* source of authority. We encourage them to make their daily decisions in concert with the teachings of the Bible rather than as a reflection of their feelings. We understand that our approach is narrow and may not appeal to the majority of society. We also acknowledge that, since we will address *sin* rather than *emotional pain*, our advice may conflict with the counsel our friends will receive from other sources.**

**2 Tim 3:16-17**

***16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. 17 It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do. NLT***

**Mark 12:24**

***24 Jesus replied, "Your problem is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God." NLT***

## *The Foundational Beliefs of Harvest Church (Our Absolutes)*

2 Tim 4:3-4 NLT

*"For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to right teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever they want to hear. They will reject the truth and follow strange myths."*

1. WE BELIEVE... that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God and without mistakes as originally written. It is the complete revelation of His will for salvation and the only unfailing rule of faith and practice for the Christian life.
2. WE BELIEVE... in one God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these three are co-eternal and of equal dignity and power.
3. WE BELIEVE... in the deity of Jesus Christ; His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit; His virgin birth; His sinless life; His substitutionary death on the cross; His bodily resurrection; His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal, imminent return.
4. WE BELIEVE... that man was created by and for God; that by man's disobeying God, every person incurred spiritual death, which is separation from God, and physical death as a consequence; and that all people are sinners by nature and practice.
5. WE BELIEVE... the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous because of His sacrificial and substitutionary death and are, therefore, in right relationship with God.
6. WE BELIEVE... in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit indwelling all believers and thus enabling and empowering the life and ministry of the believer.
7. WE BELIEVE... in the bodily resurrection of everyone who has lived, the everlasting blessedness of those in right relationship with God, and the everlasting punishment of those who have rejected God's forgiveness in His Son.

*"In the essentials - unity; in the non-essentials - liberty; and in all things charity."  
Augustine of Hippo 425 A.D.*

## **STAFF STANDARDS ON MORAL INTEGRITY** ( from Faith Chapel)

- **THOU SHALT NOT GO TO LUNCH ALONE WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX. \***
- **THOU SHALT NOT HAVE THE OPPOSITE SEX PICK YOU UP OR DRIVE YOU PLACES WHEN IT IS JUST THE TWO OF YOU. \***
- **THOU SHALT NOT KISS ANY ATTENDER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX OR SHOW AFFECTION THAT COULD BE QUESTIONED. \***
- **THOU SHALT NOT VISIT THE OPPOSITE SEX ALONE AT HOME.**
- **THOU SHALT NOT COUNSEL THE OPPOSITE SEX ALONE AT THE OFFICE, AND THOU SHALT NOT COUNSEL THE OPPOSITE SEX MORE THAN ONCE WITHOUT THAT PERSON'S MATE. REFER THEM.**
- **THOU SHALT NOT DISCUSS DETAILED SEXUAL PROBLEMS WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX IN COUNSELING. REFER THEM.**
- **THOU SHALT NOT DISCUSS YOUR MARRIAGE PROBLEMS WITH AN ATTENDER OF THE OPPOSITE SEX.**
- **THOU SHALT BE CAREFUL IN ANSWERING E-MAILS, INSTANT MESSAGES, CHATROOMS, CARDS, OR LETTERS FROM THE OPPOSITE SEX.**
- **THOU SHALT MAKE YOUR SECRETARY YOUR PROTECTIVE ALLY.**
- **THOU SHALT PRAY FOR THE INTEGRITY OF OTHER STAFF MEMBERS.**

**\*THE FIRST THREE DO NOT APPLY TO UNMARRIED STAFF.**

## *Marital Guidelines for Harvest Church*

*Because we seek God's glory and the welfare of His children, no pastor at Harvest Church will participate in a couple's wedding unless the following criteria are met. Because circumstances can vary so widely, we reserve the right to amend these guidelines on a case by case basis.*

1. Both partners must be either *believers* or *non-believers* (*we will not knowingly marry a couple that is "unequally yoked"*)  
2 Cor. 6:14-16
2. The couple must not be living together (*we will not knowingly marry a couple that is engaged in deliberate sin*)  
1 Cor. 6:18-20
3. If either party has been previously divorced, the dissolution(s) must have been for *Biblically acceptable reasons* (*we will not knowingly marry a couple that has chosen to break a marriage vow*) Matt. 5:31-31
4. If either party is under 25 years of age, we request a letter from their parents indicating their approval of the marriage (*we will not knowingly put a young couple at risk by supporting a union that is not endorsed by their parents*) Eph. 6:1-3

**\*If a man and woman are to be married by one of our pastors, Harvest Church asks that each couple complete a 5 session pre-marital course given by a staff member of our Pastoral Care Department. We also request that each couple commit to meeting at least monthly for at least two years following the wedding with a Godly "mentoring couple." If the newlyweds do not have a couple to whom they can submit, our staff will endeavor to secure an appropriate couple from those we have trained. We also require that each couple complete the Prepare/Enrich Marriage Assessment. If the \$35 per couple cost is a burden, we will cover that expense.**

Mal 2:13-16 NLT

*13 Here is another thing you do. You cover the LORD's altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings, and he doesn't accept them with pleasure. 14 You cry out, "Why has the LORD abandoned us?" I'll tell you why! Because the LORD witnessed the vows you and your wife made to each other on your wedding day when you were young. But you have been disloyal to her, though she remained your faithful companion, the wife of your marriage vows. 15 Didn't the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard yourself; remain loyal to the wife of your youth. 16 "For I hate divorce!" says the LORD, the God of Israel. "It is as cruel as putting on a victim's bloodstained coat," says the LORD Almighty. "So guard yourself; always remain loyal to your wife."*

## **Harvest Church Benevolence Assistance Ministry**

Greetings Friend,

**Thank you for your interest in the Harvest Church Helping Hands Benevolence Assistance Ministry. As a church, we are committed to growing people into completely committed Christ-followers. Because of that we seek to minister to all areas of a Christ-followers life, including their physical needs.**

Helping Hands Benevolence Assistance Ministry is for those who regularly attend Harvest Church. **It is not within our ability to care for the needs of the greater Billings community, therefore we must limit the scope of this ministry. Funds, resources, services, and financial counseling are administered on a short-term basis through the various ministries of Harvest Church.**

**Since it is not our intent to support a repetitively dependent lifestyle, we try to aid those with verifiable needs in the exploration of new ideas, options, and training for becoming financially responsible in their particular circumstances. All applicants are required to complete a Benevolence Assistance Request and meet with a counselor to complete the application process. Also, if it is deemed helpful, applicants may be asked to participate in on-going financial or spiritual counseling with one of our staff counselors. All counseling is provided at no expense to the participant.**

**Please understand it is not our intention to alienate or offend anyone through the application and screening process. We are trying to obtain a composite picture of your present situation to evaluate how we can best serve your needs. We will endeavor, through our staff of skilled counselors, to provide you with the best counseling, training, and resources available to help you through and beyond your present situation. Our desire is for this to be a growing time for you. We are here to help.**

**There are general guidelines which to apply to benevolence assistance: 1) We do not provide cash. When assistance is given it is through vouchers, gift cards, and items purchased. 2) All applicants must allow 5 to 8 days to process all requests. 3) Some applicants may be required to re-pay or work off assistance as deemed appropriate. 4) An initial interview with a staff counselor is mandatory before any assistance is given, even in the case of an emergency and will be scheduled accordingly.**

**We try to provide assistance as much as we can, but because we are limited in our funds and resources, we are not always able to help. It is difficult for us to turn away any requests for assistance, however when we are not able to assist it is not our judgment that your need is not genuine or that you are undeserving of our help. Rather, because of our limited resources we can only fulfill a portion of the requests submitted. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns throughout this process.**

Sincerely,

**George Burgin  
Pastor of Outreach  
Harvest Church**

## **Benevolence Guide Lines**

*2 Thess 3:10 NIV*

*For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."*

**In an effort to help those in need in a manner that promotes their healing and growth the following guide lines will be used by the leaders of Harvest church to determine our financial involvement:**

- 1. The person requesting financial aid will complete a financial statement that we will provide to help us determine the level of need.**
- 2. This person will agree to meet at least once with a member of our pastoral care and discipleship department.**
- 3. The person will agree to attend at least 3 sessions with one of our trained financial counselors to go over their budget.**
- 4. If the person is unemployed and capable of being employed, they will agree to spend at least 4 hours per day / 5 days per week in pursuit of a job.**
- 5. If employment is currently not an option, the person agrees to serve at the church or a local Christ centered outreach for at least 20 hours per week.**

### **Questions for the Person Seeking Harvest's Assistance**

**Current job** \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly take home pay** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other monthly revenue** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current monthly expenses** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of assistance being requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary reason for the request** \_\_\_\_\_

# Balance Sheet

## Assets

Cash	\$ _____
Checking	\$ _____
Savings	\$ _____
Securities	\$ _____
Accounts/Notes Receivable	\$ _____
Real Estate	\$ _____
Household Goods	\$ _____
Vehicles	\$ _____
Cash Value Life Insurance	\$ _____
401(k) Plan	\$ _____
Individual Retirement Accounts	\$ _____
Other Assets	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

## Liabilities

Notes Payable	\$ _____
Accounts/Bills Due	\$ _____
Credit Cards Payable	\$ _____
Vehicle Loans	\$ _____
Unpaid Taxes	\$ _____
Real Estate Mortgages Payable	\$ _____
Land Contracts Payable	\$ _____
Life Insurance Loans	\$ _____
Other Liabilities	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

(Assets always equal Total Liabilities and Net Worth)

# Monthly Income and Expense Statement

## Monthly Income and Expense Worksheet

Use this Monthly Income and Expense Worksheet to help determine what your monthly income and expenses will be when you begin repaying your loan.

### Monthly Income

**NOTE:** Some of your income or expenses may not be payable on a monthly basis. Please adjust the figures to reflect them as monthly payments. This will help you have a more accurate picture of your monthly financial activity.

**Net Wages** (Take-home pay after taxes, social security, and other deductions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Self  
\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse

### Other Income

\_\_\_\_\_ Child Support/Alimony  
\_\_\_\_\_ Interest/Dividends/Investment Income  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tax Refunds/Other Income

### Monthly Expenses

#### Student Loan Payments

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Stafford Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Direct Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Perkins Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Consolidation Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Nursing Student Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Health Education Assistance Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal PLUS Loan  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other Educational Loans

#### Personal Health

\_\_\_\_\_ General health insurance/Hospitalization  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cancer Care/Other medical and dental insurance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-reimbursed Chiropractic/Optometric/Other health care services  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-reimbursed medicines/Treatments/Vitamins/Eye care

#### Housing & Housing Maintenance

\_\_\_\_\_ Rent/Mortgage  
\_\_\_\_\_ Property Taxes  
\_\_\_\_\_ Homeowners/Rental insurance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Electricity/Gas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Water/Sewer  
\_\_\_\_\_ Garbage handling  
\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone  
\_\_\_\_\_ Repairs/Maintenance (house, yard, appliances)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnishings (furniture, linen, appliances)

#### Child Care

\_\_\_\_\_ Day care/Pre-school  
\_\_\_\_\_ Baby/Child sitting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Child support you must pay  
\_\_\_\_\_ Allowances

#### Clothing and Grooming

\_\_\_\_\_ New clothing/Shoes  
\_\_\_\_\_ Repairs/Alterations  
\_\_\_\_\_ Dry cleaning/Laundry  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hair care/Toiletries/Cosmetics

**Gifts/Donations**

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthdays/Anniversaries  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other Holidays  
\_\_\_\_\_ Church/Charities

**Transportation**

\_\_\_\_\_ Car payment/Lease  
\_\_\_\_\_ Car insurance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gas/Oil/Tires/Repairs/Maintenance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Driver's license/Tags/Car registration/Inspection  
\_\_\_\_\_ Public transportation

**Food**

\_\_\_\_\_ Groceries  
\_\_\_\_\_ Outside meals/Food delivered to home  
\_\_\_\_\_ Outside snacks/Coffee breaks  
\_\_\_\_\_ Pet food  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other items usually purchased with groceries

**Savings/Retirement**

\_\_\_\_\_ Savings deposits  
\_\_\_\_\_ IRA deposits/Annuities  
\_\_\_\_\_ CD's/Money Market Funds  
\_\_\_\_\_ Stocks/Bonds/Other investments

**Other Debt Payments**

\_\_\_\_\_ Major credit cards/Store charge cards  
\_\_\_\_\_ Installment loans with a bank, savings & loan, credit union or store  
\_\_\_\_\_ Loans from relatives/friends

**Professional and Financial Services and Fees**

\_\_\_\_\_ Life/Disability insurance  
\_\_\_\_\_ Attorneys/Accounting fees  
\_\_\_\_\_ Banking/Credit card fees  
\_\_\_\_\_ Union/Professional dues  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tuition/Special training

**Recreation**

\_\_\_\_\_ Cable/Internet  
\_\_\_\_\_ Entertainment (movies, plays, home)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sports (spectator, participation)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hobbies/Special interests  
\_\_\_\_\_ Vacations/Short trips  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memberships/Subscriptions

**Miscellaneous**

\_\_\_\_\_ Work-related uniforms/Special equipment  
\_\_\_\_\_ Non-reimbursed employee expenses (business entertaining, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Alimony you must pay  
\_\_\_\_\_ Emergency/Other unexpected expenses

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Monthly Income**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Monthly Expenses**

**NOTE:** If your projected monthly income exceeds your projected monthly expenses, you may want to

consider paying off any debts you have faster than your payment schedules require. That way, you will save money by reducing the amount of interest you pay over the life of the loan.

If your projected monthly expenses exceed your projected monthly income, you will either need to increase your income or reduce your expenses.

## Confidential Personal History

date \_\_\_\_\_

(Please feel free to make additional comments in the space provided)

### Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Education Completed: High School\_\_\_\_, College\_\_\_\_, Graduate School\_\_\_\_

Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_

Ever Divorced? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Vocation: \_\_\_\_\_

How long employed at this vocation? \_\_\_\_\_ months/years

Primary reason for your visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to us by \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Family History

Were your parents strict\_\_\_\_ or permissive?\_\_\_\_

Was there a sense of security and harmony in your home during the first 12 years of your life? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

Was your father clearly the head of the home? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

Were your parents ever divorced? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

To your knowledge, were any of your parents or grandparents ever involved in an adulterous affair? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

# 1

Are there any addictive problems in your family (alcohol, drugs, etc.)?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Is there a history of mental illness in your immediate family? Yes\_\_\_

No\_\_\_

To your knowledge, have you or any of your parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents ever been involved in any occult religious practices?

Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

## **Your Physical Health**

Do you have a healthy diet? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you drink plenty of water each day? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

What is your average amount of sleep each night?\_\_\_hours

Do you exercise regularly? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Are you addicted to: drugs\_\_\_, alcohol\_\_\_, tobacco\_\_\_, food\_\_\_,  
shopping\_\_\_, pornography\_\_\_, the internet\_\_\_ work\_\_\_,  
recreation\_\_\_, the approval of others\_\_\_?

Are you presently under any kind of medication for either physical or psychological reasons? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you harbor anger toward anyone? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you have any problems sleeping? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ Do you have

any recurring nightmares? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

## 2

Does your present schedule allow for regular periods of rest & relaxation? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you have a hobby you really enjoy? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Are you adopted? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Have you ever been physically beaten or sexually molested? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

### **Your Mental Health**

Do you struggle with any of the following:

daydreaming___	lustful thoughts___
thoughts of inferiority___	thoughts of inadequacy___
worry___ fear___	obsessive/compulsive thoughts___
blasphemous thoughts___	unforgiveness___
headaches___ dizziness___	guilt___
rage___	grief___

How many hours of TV do you watch per week?\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours each week do you devote to reading?\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours do you spend each week listening to music?\_\_\_\_\_

Would you consider yourself to be an optimist\_\_\_ or a pessimist\_\_\_?

Have you had a miscarriage? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ an abortion? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Have you ever been in a serious accident? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Have you been convicted of a crime? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

**3**

Do you regularly: read the Bible? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_ pray? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you attend a church service regularly? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you have a small group? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Name your 2 closest friends\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Do you presently know someone with whom you could be emotionally honest (that is, you could tell this person exactly how you feel about yourself, life, and other people)? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Have you ever suffered from depression? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Have you ever been diagnosed with a mental illness? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Are you easily offended? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

Do you generally submit to the authorities in your life? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_

What do you consider your greatest problem in life?

Describe your Spiritual journey?

spiritualdirection

*Matt 28:19 -20 NLT 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

## **How We Approach "Spiritual Direction"**

(by Michele Oakland and Fred Nelson)

- Step #1 - we discuss what it means to "be saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit" (Spiritual Checkup page)**
- Step #2 - we secure an agreement that loving and obeying God will be their primary goal in life**
- Step #3 - we secure an agreement that the person wants *our* help in achieving the above goal**
- Step #4 - through discussion, prayer, and study of the Scriptures we help them discover and acknowledge the specific sins that have caused their pain and/or relational problems (*helping the person determine how and why a sin entered their life is often productive*)**
- Step #5 - we encourage them to *confess* their sins and *repent* (Repentance pages)**
- Step #6 - we encourage them to systematically *forgive* those who have hurt or offended them (Forgiveness by Foster)**
- Step #7 - we teach them the importance of the "spiritual triangle" of Bible study, listening prayer, and intimate fellowship with other believers. We strongly encourage small groups.**
- Step #8 - we instruct them regarding their new identity in Christ (My Identity in Christ pages)**
- Step #9 - we continue the discipleship process or pass them to another "1 Timothy 3 leader" who will do the same**

**\*It is important that we never put our new friend in a position where he is more worried about hurting our feelings than getting help for himself. (*Enabler* - a person who provides *unhelpful help* with a good motive)**

**Matt 4:17** *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."* NIV

The Kingdom of Heaven – the rule of God in the hearts of men.

## The Signs of Wellness

(the blessings of living in compliance to the teachings of Jesus)

**As a Christ follower regularly engages in the study of the Word, in prayer, and in intimate fellowship with other sincere believers who will pour into his life, God brings about some wonderful changes in the person's character. I have found that these three characteristics combined are often a signal that the believer is ready to go "make disciples" himself. As best I can describe them, the three characteristics of people who demonstrate this mental and spiritual wellness in their lives are:**

### 1. an inability to remain offended from slights, criticism, & gossip

Rom 12:14-19 NIV

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 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. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

### 2. an inability to worry about the future

Matt 6:28-34 NIV

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

### 3. an inability to feel insecure

Ps 139:13-16 NIV

3 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was

made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16  
your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book before one of them came to be.

**Heb 13:17 NIV**

**17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men  
who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden,  
for that would be of no advantage to you.**

## **Mentor Couple's Agreement**

As part of our mentoring/discipleship arrangement, we promise that we will be readily available to you to discuss anything you deem important --- "the good, the bad, and the ugly." We will not allow an issue that is important to either of you to be *swept under the rug*.

In response to our promise we are asking both of you to covenant with us and one another that you will, from this day forward, refrain from speaking unkindly about your spouse or your marriage with any other persons but us. With us we ask that you be totally honest and thorough regarding your feelings about your spouse and their behavior --- even if they are negative.

And, lastly we would have you assure us that if either of you desires our assistance, that request will be met with an enthusiastic "yes" by the other spouse.

If you abide by the above guidelines, we believe that God will use us to keep you safe and help you grow.

We the undersigned agree to the above.

Husband's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Matt 28:19-20 NLT** *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

**Luke 6:40 NLT** *A student is not greater than the teacher. But the student who works hard will become like the teacher.*

## **The 3 Stages in Making a Disciple**

**What should happen to a person after "getting saved?" Eph 2:2-10**

He becomes a disciple who is first a

### **#1 LEARNER - HELPER**

Rom 12:1-2

("Getting Well" - learning what God thinks about life)

*Characterized by a devotion to prayer, the Word, intimate fellowship, holiness, and worship*

then a

### **#2 WORKER - INFLUENCER**

Matt 9:37-38

("Getting Going" - becoming an active part of the "discipleship process")

*Characterized by a passion for sharing the Gospel and bearing the burdens of others*

and sometimes, as God directs and provides, a

### **#3 LEADER - VISIONARY**

2 Tim 2:2

("Getting Others Going" - becoming a completely committed Christ follower)

*Characterized by initiative, personal vision, the ability to motivate others, and single-mindedness in his efforts to serve God's Church and further His Kingdom*

#### **Our Approach to Making Disciples:**

**Col 1:28-29 NLT** *So everywhere we go, we tell everyone about Christ. We warn them and teach them with all the wisdom God has given us, for we want to present them to God, perfect in*

their relationship to Christ. I work very hard at this, as I depend on Christ's mighty power that works within me.

**1 Thess 2:8 NLT** We loved you so much that we gave you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

### **How to Develop a Disciple of Jesus Christ**

*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*  
Matt. 28:19-20

#### **I. Teaching – the imparting of *knowledge***

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” 3 John 1:4*

- |   |                       |                        |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. God’s Character                      | 11. Forgiveness       | 21. Creation           |
| 2. God’s Attributes                     | 12. Water Baptism     | 22. Good Works         |
| 3. Man’s Depravity                      | 13. The Holy Spirit   | 23. Servanthood        |
| 4. Confession & Repentance              | 14. Spiritual Gifts   | 24. God’s Guidance     |
| 5. God’s Plan of Salvation (the Bridge) | 15. The Tongue        | 25. The Body of Christ |
| 6. The Bible – God’s Word (the Hand)    | 16. Spiritual Warfare | 26. Perseverance       |
| 7. Assurance of Salvation               | 17. Heaven            | 27. Apologetics        |
| 8. Love/Grace                           | 18. Hell              | 28. Holiness/Purity    |
| 9. Obedience (the Wheel)                | 19. Our Thinking      | 29. Humility           |
| 10. Dating/Marriage/Sex                 | 20. Christ’s Return   | 30. Gratitude          |

#### **II. Training – the imparting of *skill***

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others.” 2 Tim. 2:2*

➤ Teach him how to:

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. have a quiet time               | 7. share the Gospel              |
| 2. study the Bible                 | 8. give (time, talents, & money) |
| 3. pray                            | 9. resist the devil              |
| 4. choose a church                 | 10. fast                         |
| 5. start a covenant group          | 11. disciple another             |
| 6. memorize & meditate on the Word | 12. worship                      |

#### **III. Building – the imparting of *character***

*“We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.” 1 Thess. 2:8*

➤ **Endeavor to model Christ-likeness and pray for the fruit of the Spirit to develop in his life (Gal. 5:22-23)**

- |             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love     | 6. Goodness     |
| 2. Joy      | 7. Faithfulness |
| 3. Peace    | 8. Gentleness   |
| 4. Patience | 9. Self-control |
| 5. Kindness |                 |

*“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Col. 1:28-29*

## **The 3 Primary Purposes of Our "Mind of Christ" Groups**

\*The phrase "in Christ" appears 89 times in the NIV New Testament; the term "Christian" appears twice  
My favorite expression for living in the Kingdom of God is having "the mind of Christ" 1 Cor 2:16

We honor the Bible and hold to its inerrancy and infallibility as God's Word, but our purpose on earth is not to be "Bible Scholars" but to love God with every fiber of our being and our neighbor as our selves. Therefore, the objective of all our small groups is to assist people to be "in Christ" and to have His "mind" by providing:

#1 - Physical, emotional, and spiritual health - "how are you doing?"  
(most of the really important things in life are fragile)

*James 5:13-16 NIV*

*13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 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.*

#2 - A venue where honest questions about matters of faith can be asked

(Jesus used people's legitimate questions as one of his primary teaching methods)

*Mark 10:17 NIV*

*17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"*

#3 - A place for spiritual instruction  
(the mind of Christ is generally both "taught and caught")

*1 Thess 2:6-8 NIV*

*As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, 7 but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. 8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*

Gal 5:19-21 NIV

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## **Healing for the Emotionally Disturbed - Making a Proper Placement**

### **I. The Most Common Anti-social Conditions**

(These make personal contentment and living and working with others very difficult)

A. Anxiety disorders, B. childhood disorders, C. eating disorders, D. mood disorders like: 1. bipolar syndrome and 2. depression, E. cognitive disorders like dementia, F. personality disorders, G. schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, H. substance related disorders, I. demonic influence (Eph 4:27), and J. simply "living according to the sinful nature" (Rom. 8:5)

### **II. Potential Causes**

(Generally emotional imbalances are caused by a trauma in the past, a medical problem or by sin (a breach of the 10 Commandments). Often the problem is caused by a combination of the above three.

- A. *Trauma*: ie. accidental violence or intentional violence (abuse)
- B. *Medical Problems*: ie. illness (including glandular dysfunctions that cause chemical imbalances); poor nutrition and hydration; lack of exercise
- C. *Sin*: ie. idolatry (addictions), broken relationships with parents, murder, sexual sin, greed, deception, or unforgiveness

### **III. Potential Remedies**

- A. Confession and repentance, B. making changes in diet, exercise, rest, and hydration,
- C. close personal relationships, D. professional therapy, E. supportive drugs,
- F. surgery

**I believe the key question to ask oneself is: "If I were to be reconciled to God today and began to comply to His commandments, do I sense that I would feel and behave significantly better?" The answer to this question will likely determine which remedies you should pursue. If the answer is "yes," then Bible based guidance will likely be very helpful. If the answer is "no," we would suggest that you meet with a licensed mental health care provider. (a list is provided below)**

**Local Licensed Professionals We Know and Respect**

- |                                  |                                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Robert Bakko - 259-6161       | 2. Robert "Biff" Hagstrom - 245-4005 |
| 3. Phil House - 245-44446.       | 4. Diana Krumm - 896-0345            |
| 5. Virginia Rightmier - 252-1444 | 6. Linda Rykowski - 252-8898         |
| 7. Karen Kietzman - 248-4153     | 8. Deb Marler - 696-4715             |
- \*Chemical Dependency/Compulsive Behavior Treatment Center - Rimrock Foundation -  
248-3175

**Eph 4:25-27 NIV**

**Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.**

foothold = *topos* - NT 5117 - meaning "room, place, or opportunity"

## **How to Help a Person who is Possessed**

(possessed = daimonizomai - NT:1139 "to be under the power of a demon")

We try to be flexible and sensitive to God's Spirit, but the guidelines below represent our general procedure in dealing with those who are demonized:

Having received a request for help, we inform the person that we believe that failure to yield to Christ and repent of one's sins will prohibit deliverance from demonic influences (Matt 12:43-45.) It is our conviction that demons can control us only when we have granted them permission by remaining in sin. We always have at least one other believer present in a deliverance session to support our efforts with prayer.

1. We ask the person to complete our *Confidential Personal History*
2. We prepare for the session with prayer and fasting
3. At the first session:
  - a. we begin with prayer
  - b. we ask the person to briefly tell their story including the greatest traumas they can remember (we are looking for long standing *grudges, grief, guilt, and fear*; unforgiveness seems to be the most common "foothold" used by Satan.)
  - c. we ask them to give us an idea of:
    - \* how long they have felt captive

- \* when they started sensing something foreign within them
  - \* how the demonic power shows itself in them
- d. we ask them to describe their spiritual journey
  - e. we ask them if they believe that Jesus, God's only begotten Son, came in the flesh (1 John 4:1-3)
  - f. we use our *How to Have a Relationship with God* page (attached) to present the Gospel and to discern if Jesus is truly their Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-10). If they are unwilling to receive Christ, we end that appointment and let them know that we would be happy to serve them at a later date.
  - g. if we are confident that they are secure in Christ, we proceed to help them to discern and confess specific areas of sin, seek God's forgiveness, and determine how best to make amends. After they address each area out loud, we inform the demons that their permission to vex the person has been revoked and that in Jesus' name they must leave. We order the demons to the abyss (James 4:7-10).
  - h. we generally keep these sessions to 1 1/2 hours or less. If more ministry is needed, we schedule another session as soon as possible.
  - i. we review our *Many Aspire but Few Attain* page (attached) as a reminder of the disciplines that keep us safe and help us grow. We also remind them of the power of God to be found in: the name of Jesus, worshipful music, and a loving environment.

**Matt 12:43-45 NIV**

**"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."**

**1 John 4:1-3 NIV**

**Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.**

**James 4:7-10 NIV**

**Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

## **How to Have a Relationship with God, Your Heavenly Father**

(What the Bible Teaches - Scripture References from the NIV)

- ✓ ***The Bible teaches that we are to examine our own spiritual condition.***

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test?

- ✓ ***The Bible teaches that there is only one way to be saved from our sin.***

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

1 Tim 2:3-6 This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men-the testimony given in its proper time.

- ✓ ***The Bible teaches that there are 4 principles that I must embrace in order for me to be in relationship with God.***

**1. I must believe that I am a sinner. (*pisteuo*; believe = trust in, rely on, cling to, surrender to)**

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**2. I must believe that my sin separates me from God now and for eternity.**

2 Thess 1: 8-9 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

**3. I must believe that God's perfect Son, Jesus Christ, became sin on my behalf and paid the full penalty for that sin on the cross.**

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**4. Out of gratitude for Christ's sacrifice I must acknowledge Jesus as Lord (boss) and yield to His authority in my life.**

Rom 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (*Kurios*; Lord= one in total authority)

*Are you a "Christ-liker" or a saved, spirit filled follower of Jesus Christ?*

**2 Cor 5:9-10 NAS**

***Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.***

## **Many Aspire, but Few Attain** *(The Basics Needed to Succeed Spiritually)*

### **A. FELLOWSHIP**

- 1. a good Bible teaching church**
- 2. a life-giving small group**
- 3. a committed mentor**

### **B. PRAYER**

- 1. God talks to you - listening prayer**
- 2. you talk to God - ACTS**  
*Adoration - Confession - Thanksgiving - Supplication*

### **C. THE WORD**

- 1. read**
- 2. hear**
- 3. study**
- 4. memorize**

## 5. meditate

**John 15:5**

***"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. NASU***

### **Steps to Freedom in Christ**

**By Neil T. Anderson**

1. The first step toward experiencing your freedom in Christ is to renounce (verbally reject) all past or present involvement with occult practices, cult teachings and rituals, and non-Christian religions. You must renounce any activity or group which denies Jesus Christ or offers guidance through any source other than the absolute authority of the Bible. Any group that requires dark or secret initiations, ceremonies, promises or pacts should also be renounced (1John 4:1-3).
2. God's Word is true, and we need to accept His truth in the innermost part of our being (Psalm 51:6). Whether or not we feel it is true, we need to believe it is true! Jesus is the truth; the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth; the Word of God is truth; and we are admonished to speak the truth in love (John 14:6; Eph. 4:15).
3. We need to forgive others so Satan cannot take advantage of us (2 Cor. 2:10-11). We are commanded to get rid of all bitterness in our lives and forgive others as we have been forgiven (Eph. 4:31-32).
4. We live in a rebellious age. Many people only obey laws and authorities when it is convenient for them. There is a general lack of respect for those in government, and Christians are often as guilty as the rest of society in fostering a critical, rebellious spirit. Certainly, we are not expected to agree with leaders' policies that are in violation of the Scripture, but we are to "honor all [people]; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17).
5. Pride kills. It says, "I don't need God's or anyone else's help. I can handle it by myself." Oh, no, you can't! We absolutely need God, and we necessarily need each other. The Apostle Paul wisely wrote, "[we] worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and *put no confidence in the flesh*" (Phil. 3:3). That is a good definition of humility: putting no confidence in the flesh, that is in ourselves; but, rather, being "*strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might*" (Eph.6:10). Humility is confidence properly placed in God.
6. Many times we feel trapped in a vicious cycle of "sin-confess-sin-confess" that never seems to end. We can become very discouraged and end up just giving in to the sins of our flesh. To find freedom we must follow James 4:7: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." We submit to God by confession of sin and repentance (turning away from sin). We resist the devil by rejecting his lies. Instead, put on the full armor of God and walk in the truth (Eph. 6:10-20). Sin that has become a habit often requires help from a trusted brother or sister in Christ. James 5:16 says, "Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." Sometimes the assurance of 1 John 1:9 is enough; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
7. The final step to freedom is to renounce the sins of your ancestors as well as any satanic assignments directed toward you or your ministry (Ex. 20:4-6). The iniquities of one generation can adversely affect future generations unless the sins of the ancestors are confessed and

renounced, and your spiritual heritage in Christ is claimed. You are not guilty for the sin of your ancestors, but because of their sin, you may be predisposed to certain strengths or weaknesses and influenced by the physical and spiritual atmosphere in which you were raised. These conditions can contribute to causing someone to struggle with a particular sin. Ask the Lord to show you specifically what sins are characteristic of your family.

## **Why We Personally Never Recommend or Encourage a Person to Divorce Their Mate**

*\*Historical Note - Until the writings of the humanist Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536), it was the almost unanimous view of the Church fathers that there were no Scriptural grounds for divorce, and that if divorce should occur, there was positively no Scriptural basis for remarriage. Ambrosiaster, a Latin writer of the fourth century, was the one dissenter to this view.*

VIP - After 35 years of study, I am embarrassed to say, that I still have no firm and final conviction regarding either the Bible's teaching on *legitimate* grounds for divorce or if re-marriage to another is an option in God's eyes. Consequently, I have chosen to be charitable to the many different views on divorce and re-marriage that are held by those in the Body of Christ. All I would ask of my brothers and sisters in Jesus is that we would not so glibly or quickly recommend divorce as a solution to marital problems. Fred Nelson

Because:

- 1. We cannot, in good conscience, recommend something that God says He "hates."**  
(Mal 2:16)
- 2. There is strong support from Scripture, Jewish literature, historical background, and immediate context that the "exception clause" of marital unfaithfulness (Greek-*porneia*) mentioned by Jesus in Matt 5:32 and Matt 19:9 referred to "technically illegal marriages" prohibited by the Hebrew "Law of Holiness" (Lev 18:6-20). Thus, a person who discovered *porneia* during the betrothal period could legitimately dissolve the union on the grounds that it was a:
  - a. marriage between two people of the same sex  
(a homosexual marriage)
  - b. marriage between close relatives  
(an incestuous marriage)
  - c. marriage where the bridegroom discovers that his bride is not a virgin  
(a fraudulent marriage)**
- 3. Divorce doesn't really work - each of the parties simply carry their hurts, habits, and hang-ups to another relationship.**

roughly 50% of first marriages fail; 74% of second ones fail; and 84% of third marriages fail.

## **4. Divorce does irreparable damage to one's children.**

Matt 18:6 NLT

But if anyone causes one of these little ones who trusts in me to lose faith, it would be better for that person to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around the neck.

## **5. Divorce is a terrible witness to the non-believing world**

1 John 2:9-10 NLT

If anyone says, "I am living in the light," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is still living in darkness. Anyone who loves other Christians is living in the light and does not cause anyone to stumble.

## **6. Divorce hurts other struggling marriages**

The greatest hindrances I have in talking people out of a divorce are their friends who tell them how happy they are since they have divorced and remarried.

*Ultimately, we never recommend divorce; we labor with all God's resources to help struggling couples who seek our assistance to save their marriages; and if a couple divorces, we endeavor to love both parties.*

## **Suicide - Symptoms and Danger Signs**

**(from Officer Dave Punt, Billings Police Dept.)**

### **Warning Signs of Suicide**

Ideation (thinking about suicide)

Substance use or abuse (increased or change in substance)

Purposelessness (no sense of purpose or belonging)

Anger

Trapped (feeling like there is no way out)

Hopelessness (there is nothing to live for, no hope or optimism)

Withdrawal (from family, friends, work, school, activities, hobbies)

Anxiety (restlessness, irritability)

Recklessness (high risk-taking behavior)

Mood disturbance (dramatic change in mood)

### **Additional Warning Signs of Suicide**

Talking about suicide.

Statements about hopelessness, helplessness, or worthlessness.

Preoccupation with death.

Suddenly happier, calmer. Once the decision is made they feel relief.

Loss of interest in things one cares about.

Visiting or calling people one cares about.

Making arrangements; setting one's affairs in order.

Giving things away, such as prized possessions.

**A suicidal person urgently needs to see a doctor or mental health professional.**

## **Someone You Know is Suicidal**

The Journal of the American Medical Association has reported that 90% of all suicides occur during or following a depressive episode. Awareness, education, and treatment are the keys to suicide prevention.

### **Know What to Watch For**

Symptoms of Depression  
Warning Signs of Suicide

### **Know What to Do**

Stigma associated with mental illnesses can prevent people from getting help. Your willingness to talk about depression and suicide with a friend, family member, or co-worker can be the first step in getting help and preventing suicide. The church gives someone the option to talk without a permanent medical record being made.

### **If You See the Warning Signs of Suicide...**

**Begin a dialogue by asking questions.** Suicidal thoughts are common with depressive illnesses and your willingness to talk about

it in a non-judgmental, non-confrontational way can be the help a person needs to seeking professional help. Questions okay to ask:

"Do you ever feel so badly that you think about suicide?"

"Do you have a plan to commit suicide or take your life?"

"Have you thought about when you would do it (today, tomorrow, next week)?"

"Have you thought about what method you would use?"

"Have you already acquired the needed items?"

Asking these questions will help you to determine if your friend or family members is in immediate danger, and get help if needed. A suicidal person should see a doctor or mental health professional immediately. Calling **911** or going to a hospital emergency room are also good options to prevent a tragic suicide attempt or death. Calling the National Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK** is also a resource for you or the person you care about for help. Remember, always take thoughts of or plans for suicide seriously.

**Never keep a plan for suicide a secret.** Don't worry about risking a friendship if you truly feel a life is in danger. You have bigger things to worry about-someone's life might be in danger! It is better to lose a relationship from violating a confidence than it is to go to a funeral. And most of the time they will come back and thank you for saving their life.

**Don't try to minimize problems or shame a person into changing their mind.** Your opinion of a person's situation is irrelevant. Trying to convince a person suffering with a mental illness that it's not that bad, or that they have everything to live for may only increase their feelings of guilt and hopelessness. Reassure them that help is available, that depression is treatable, and that suicidal feelings are temporary. Life **can** get better!

**If you feel the person isn't in immediate danger, acknowledge the pain as legitimate and offer to work together to get help.** Make sure you follow through. This is one instance where you must

be tenacious in your follow-up. Help find a doctor or a mental health professional, participate in making the first phone call, or go along to the first appointment. If you're in a position to help, don't assume that your persistence is unwanted or intrusive. Risking your feelings to help save a life is a risk worth taking.

**Always have a plan.** Make arrangements for additional help or follow-up. An appointment with a Doctor or follow-up appointment with you. If you feel the need and they have articulated they are planning to harm themselves Law Enforcement can be called and will assure the person gets to the hospital. If you feel it is not that urgent arrange for a friend or family member to stay with the person for the night and have another meeting the following day. Don't minimize and always error on the side of caution.

## **Child Abuse Reporting**

Working in the world of church, we meet families from all types of social and economical backgrounds with a large variety of issues that accompany them. No matter what baggage comes with them we must always remember our model, Jesus, who came to heal and love the sick. Unfortunately, at times our job introduces us to difficult situations dealing with abuse that must be handled with love.

To love somebody the way Jesus did is to show agape love, willing the best for them. At times this will mean identifying some alarming or upsetting behaviors regarding the wellness of this person or their family and it must be dealt with in a Godly manner. In order to handle these situations with love and obedience we must understand what the law asks of us and then obey, while continuing to love the person(s) and lift them up in prayer.

As of 2005, the law in the State of Montana for reporting abuse and or neglect is as follows:

Title 41 Mentors  
Chapter 3 Child Abuse and Neglect  
Part 2 Reports and Investigations  
Montana Code Annotated 41-3-201(2005)

41-3-201 (1) When the professionals and officials listed in subsection (2) know or have reasonable cause to suspect, as a result of information they receive in their professional or official capacity, that a child is abused or neglected, they shall report the matter promptly to the department of public health and human services.

(2) Professionals and officials required to report are:

- (a) A physician, resident, intern, or member of a hospital's staff engaged in the admission, examination, care or treatment of persons;
- (b) A nurse, osteopath, chiropractor, podiatrist, medical examiner, coroner, dentist, optometrist or any other health or mental health professionals;
- (c) Christian Science practitioners and religious healers;
- (d) School teachers, other school officials, and employees who work during regular school hours;
- (e) a social worker, operator or employee of any registered or licensed day-care or substitute care facility, staff of a resource and referral grant program

organized under 52-2-711 or of a child and adult food care program, or an operator or employee of a child care facility;

(f) A foster care, residential, or institutional worker;

(g) A peace officer or other law enforcement official;

(h) A member of the clergy;

(i) A guardian ad litem or a court-appointed advocate who is authorized to investigate a report of alleged abuse or neglect; or

(j) An employee of an entity that contracts with the department to provide direct services to children.

(3) Any person may make a report under this section if the person knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abuse and neglected.

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4) (b) or (4) (c), a person listed in subsection

(2) May not refuse to make a report as required in this section on the grounds of a physician-patient or similar privilege.

\* A member of the clergy or a priest is not required to make a report under this section if;

- The knowledge or suspicion of the abuse or neglect came from a statement of confession made to the member of the clergy or the priest in that person's capacity as a member of the clergy or as a priest.
- The statement was intended to be a part of a confidential communication between the member of the clergy or the priest and the member of the church or congregation; and the person who made the statement or confession does not consent to the disclosure by the member of the clergy or the priest.

If a report referred to in this section is made it must contain the following information;

- 1.) The names and addresses of the child and the child's parents or other persons responsible for this child's care.
- 2.) To the extent known, the child's age and the nature and extent of the child's injuries, including any evidence of previous injuries;
- 3.) Any other information that the maker of the report believes might be helpful in establishing the cause of the injuries or showing the willful neglect and the identity of person or persons responsible for the injury or neglect; and
- 4.) The facts that led the person to reporting to believe that child has suffered injury or injuries or willful neglect, within the meaning of this chapter.

\* Any behavior that stands out as peculiar or strange should be questioned or pursued by a professional with the permission of the family.

<b>Normal Range</b>	<b>Of Concern</b>	<b>Seek Professional Help</b>
Draws genital son human figures.	Draws genitals on one figure and not another. Genitals in disproportionate size to body.	Genitals stand out as most prominent feature. Drawings of intercourse, group sex.
Explores differences between males and females, boys and girls.	Confused about male/female differences after all questions have been answered.	Plays male or female roles in a sad, angry or aggressive manner. Hates own/other sex.
Takes advantage of opportunity to look at nude child or adult.	Stares/sneaks to stare at nude persons even after having seen many persons nude.	Asks people to take off their clothes. Tries to forcibly undress people.
Pretends to be opposite sex.	Wants to be opposite sex.	Hates being own sex. Hates own genitals.
Wants to compare genitals with peer-aged friends.	Wants to compare genitals with much older or much younger children or adults.	Demands to see the genitals, breasts, buttocks or children or adults.
Wants to touch genitals, breasts, buttocks of other same-age child or have child touch him/her.	Continuously wants to touch genitals, breasts, buttocks of other child/ren. Tries to engage in oral, anal, vaginal sex.	Manipulates or forces other child to allow touching of genitals, breast, buttocks. Forced or mutual oral, anal, or vaginal sex.
Kissing familiar adults and children. Allowing kissing by familiar adults and children.	French kissing. Talks in sexualized manner with others. Fearful of hugs and kisses by adults. Gets upset with public displays of affection.	Overly familiar with strangers. Talks in a sexualized manner with unknown adults.
Looks at the genitals, buttocks, breast of adults.	Touches/stares at the genitals, breast buttocks of adults. Asks adult to touch him/her on genitals.	Sneakily or forcibly touches genitals, breast, buttocks of adults. Tries to manipulate adult into touching him/her.
Erections	Continuous erections	Painful erections

Puts something in own genitals/rectum.	Puts something in own genital/rectum when it feels uncomfortable. Puts something in the genitals/rectum of other child.	Any coercion or force in putting something in genitals/rectum of other child. Anal, vaginal intercourse. Causing harm to own genitals/rectum.
Interest in breeding behavior of animals	Touching genitals or animals	Sexual behaviors with animals

Information from Dr. Bob Bakko

### **Great Books for Helping Others to Get Saved --- Get Well --- Get going!**

#### **Apologetics (the defense of our faith)**

*Mere Christianity*, Lewis  
*More than a Carpenter*, McDowell  
*The Case for Christ*, Strobel  
*Know Why You Believe*, Little  
*The God Who is There*, Schaeffer  
*Reason to Believe*, Sproul  
*Seven Men Who Rule the World from the Grave*, Breese

#### **Evangelism**

*The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Coleman  
*Life Style Evangelism*, Aldrich  
*Just Walk Across the Room*, Hybels

#### **Discipleship**

*The Lost Art of Disciple Making*, Eims  
*The Divine Conspiracy*, Willard  
*Disciples are Made Not Born*, Henrichsen  
*Christ's Call to Discipleship*, Boice  
*Celebration of Discipline*, Foster

#### **Personal Bible Study**

*How to Read the Bible for All its Worth*, Fee and Stuart  
*Living by the Book*, Hendricks

#### **Prayer**

*Power Through Prayer*, Bounds  
*Destined for the Throne*, Billheimer  
*Praying God's Word*, Moore  
*Prayer*, Foster  
*The Power of a Praying Wife*, Omartien

#### **The Church/Fellowship**

*The Body*, Carlson  
*Body Life*, Stedman  
*The Body*, Colson  
*Life Together*, Bonhoffer

*Church, Why Bother?* Yancey

**Devotional/Inspirational**

*My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald  
*Renewed Day by Day*, Tozer  
*Daily with the King*, Evans  
*The Purpose Driven Life*, Warren  
*Born Again*, Colson

**Inner Healing/Transformation**

*Boundaries*, Cloud and Townsend  
*Search for Significance*, McGee  
*Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, Scazzero  
*Changes that Heal*, Cloud  
*Wild at Heart*, Eldredge  
*Who I am in Christ*, Anderson  
*Hearing God*, Willard

**Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

*The Bait of Satan*, Bevere  
*The Peacemaker*, Sande

**Marriage**

*Marriage Builder*, Crabb  
*The Love Life*, Wheat  
*Strike the Original Match*, Swindoll  
*The Excellent Wife*, Peace  
*Love and Respect*, Eggerichs  
*The Five Love Languages*, Chapman  
*Fit to be Tied*, Hybels

**Sexual Fulfillment**

*Intended for Pleasure*, Wheat  
*The Act of Marriage*, LeHaye  
*Sex God*, Bell  
*Sheet Music*, Leman

**Infidelity**

*Emotional Purity: An Affair of the Heart*, Paulsen

**Divorce**

*Love Must be Tough*, Dobson

**Parenting**

*Raising a Modern Day Knight*, Lewis  
*Raising Boys*, Dobson  
*The Strong Willed Child*, Dobson  
*Captivating* (about the nature of girls), Eldredge  
*Parenting with Love and Logic*, Cline and Fay

*The New England Primer*, Barton  
*Preparing for Adolescence*, Dobson

### **Help with the Blended Family**

*The Blended Family: Achieving Peace and Harmony in the Christian Home*, Douglas

### **Loss and Grief**

*Don't Waste Your Sorrows*, Billheimer  
*Death and the Life After*, Graham  
*Surprise Endings*, Mell

### **Guilt/Grace**

*What's So Amazing About Grace*, Yancey

### **Finances**

*Managing Your Money*, Burkett  
*The Freedom of Simplicity*, Foster  
*Total Money Make Over*, Ramsey

### **Time Management/The balanced life**

*Margins*, Swenson  
*The Nine Things You Simply Must Do*, Cloud

### **Jewish Background of the Bible**

*Yeshua, A Guide to the Real Jesus and the Original Church*, Moseley  
*New Light on the Difficult Words of Jesus*, Bivins  
*Jewish New Testament Commentary*, Stern

### **Spiritual Warfare and Satan**

*The Bondage Breaker*, Anderson  
*Steps to Freedom in Christ*, Anderson  
*Strategies of Satan*, Wiersbe  
*The Screw Tape Letters*, Lewis  
*Breaking Free*, Moore

### **Addictions/Sexual Issues**

Alcohol and Drugs: *Freedom from Addiction*, Anderson  
Pornography: *Every Man's Battle (the series)*, Arterburn  
*101 Frequently Asked Questions about Homosexuality*, Haley  
*Abortion: A Mother's Plea for Maternity and the Unborn*, Hagen

### **Eating Disorders**

*Insight Into Eating Disorders*, Wilkinson

### **Communication**

*War of Words*, Tripp  
*Communication, Sex, and Money*, Cole

### **Courting/Dating**

*I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, Harris  
*Song of Songs (Audio Series)*, Nelson

**Anger**

*The Spirit Controlled Temperament*, LeHaye  
*The Other Side of Love*, Chapman

**Depression**

*Overcoming Depression (Victory Over the Darkness)*, Anderson  
*Honestly*, Walsh

**\*Marriage and Relationship Assessment --- available through the "Fire Department"**

*Prepare/Enrich*, Life Innovations - \$35 per cou

**The Classics**

***The Great Divorce***, C.S. Lewis

***The Brothers Karamazov***, Fyodor Dostoevsky

***Paradise Lost***, John Milton

***Confessions***, Augustine

***Pensees***, Blaise Pascal

***The Pilgrim's Progress***, John Bunyan

***Christian Perfection***, Francois Fénelon

***The Imitation of Christ***, Thomas a Kempis

***The Love of God***, Bernard of Clairvaux

***Mere Christianity***, C.S. Lewis

***The Pursuit of God***, A.W. Tozer

***The Screwtape Letters***, C.S. Lewis

***A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life***, William Law

**You have to read to lead!**

# WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER OF HARVEST CHURCH

## What is a “member” of the Body of Christ?

Scripture is full of references to the once-and-for-all union with Christ and His body, which happens at the instant of conversion (1 Cor. 12:12-22; Eph. 2:13-22; 4:3-6; Col. 1:13-22).

Definition | MW Collegiate Dict. (11th Ed.)

- mem•ber** \ 'mem-bər\ n
- : a body part or organ: as
  - : a unit of structure in a plant body
  - : one of the individuals composing a group
  - : a person baptized or enrolled in a church
  - : a part of a whole: as

**11.9 σύσσωμος, ov:** a person who is a member of a group, with emphasis upon his coordinate relation to other members of the group—‘co-member.’ τὰ ἔθνη ... σύσσωμα καὶ συμμετόχα τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ‘the Gentiles ... are co-members (with the Jews) and share along with them in the promise’ Eph 3.6. The concept of ‘being a co-member’ may be expressed in some languages as **‘a person who is counted along with others,’** so that in Eph 3.6 one may translate ‘the Gentiles are counted along with the Jews in sharing in the promise’ or even ‘the Gentiles along with the Jews share in the promise.’

## Positional Membership

At the moment of salvation you become a “positional member” in the universal Church of Jesus Christ, based solely on His merit and grace. Positional membership is eternal and unchanging. But then the bible also urges positional members to continue growing by becoming

participating members in a specific local assembly (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:25-31; 14:12,26; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Tim. 3:14-15).

Just as the key word “participating” describes the responsibilities of members, that word also implies that there are benefits.

## **Privileges of Membership (Church's part)**

- 1) It identifies you as a genuine follower of Jesus. Eph 2:19
- 2) It places you under the spiritual protection of godly leaders. Hebrews 13:17, Acts 20:28-29
- 3) It gives you the accountability you need to grow. Eph 5:21
- 4) It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage you in your walk with Jesus Christ. Gal. 6:1-2, Heb. 10:24-25
- 5) It gives you a place to discover and use your gifts in ministry. 1 Cor. 12:4-27

## **Commitment of Membership (My part)**

- 1) I believe the Bible to be God's Word to me and that it gives me the only way for salvation and I take His Word to be my rule for belief and conduct.
- 2) I have received Christ's sacrifice on the cross for my guilt and I acknowledge Him as the Leader of my life.
- 3) I commit to put off all ungodliness, renew my mind with God's Word and become like Christ in character and commit to reflecting Christ in the world with my life.
- 4) I will give of my time and to the growth and health of Harvest Church. I will protect the reputation of this Church in our community and remain faithful in my involvement.
- 5) Whereas the Bible teaches that God expects me to give as He prospers me I will regularly and cheerfully give from my resources to support God's work in and through Harvest Church.

6) Whereas the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ gave me spiritual gifts to help His church grow I commit to discover my gifts and use them to serve God in and around Harvest Church.

**2 Tim 3:14-17**

*You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

# Church Discipline

by

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*Though church discipline is a very difficult area of doctrine and one hard to practice, it nevertheless rests upon the divine authority of Scripture and is vital to the purity, power, progress, and purpose of the church. The responsibility and necessity for discipline is not an option for the church if it obeys the Word of God, but a church must be equally concerned that Scripture is carefully followed in the practice of church discipline. The following summary is suggested for study and as a guide for this very important area of doctrine.*

## The Principle of Discipline Defined

*R.C. Sproul writes, “The church is called not only to a ministry of reconciliation, but a ministry of nurture to those within her gates. Part of that nurture includes church discipline . . .”<sup>1</sup> The idea of church discipline is totally consistent with the basic purposes of the church—evangelism and edification. Evangelism ministers to those without the church who are in bondage to sin to bring them to faith in Christ where the transformation process begins. The edification process is designed to build up believers so they can be conformed to the image and character of Christ. Church discipline as a part of the edification process ministers to those within the body of Christ who are dominated by some area of sin so they can experience liberation from its power through fellowship with Christ. How then do we define church discipline? Carl Laney states, “Church discipline may be broadly defined as the confrontive and corrective measures taken by an individual, church leaders, or the congregation regarding a matter of sin in the life of a believer.”<sup>2</sup> Discipline in the church is not punishment. It is discipline and discipline is designed to train and restore.*

## The Pattern and Basis for Discipline

- (1) The discipline of the church is first patterned after the fact that the Lord Himself disciplines His children (Heb. 12:6) and, as a father delegates part of the discipline of the children to the mother, so the Lord has delegated the discipline of the church family to the church itself (1 Cor. 5:12-13; 2 Cor. 2:6).*
- (2) Discipline is further based on the holy character of God (1 Pet. 1:16; Heb. 12:11). The pattern of God’s holiness—His desire for the church to be holy, set apart unto Him—is an important reason for the necessity of church discipline. The church is therefore to clean out the leaven of malice and wickedness from its ranks (1 Cor. 5:6-8). A failure to exercise discipline in the church evidences a lack of awareness of and concern for the holiness of God.*
- (3) Church discipline is to be patterned after and based on the divine commands of Scripture (1 Cor. 4:6). We have numerous passages of Scripture which both command and give us God’s directives on the how, why, when, and where of church discipline. Again, a failure to exercise this responsibility demonstrates a lack of obedience and belief in the authority of the Bible (1 Cor. 5:1-13; Matt. 18:17-18; Titus 3:10; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; 1 Tim. 5:20; Gal. 6:1).*
- (4) Another basis for the necessity of church discipline is the testimony of the church in the world (1 Pet. 4:13-19). The world observes the behavior and life of the church. When the church acts no differently than the world, it loses its credibility and authenticity (1 Pet. 2:11-18; 3:8-16; 4:1-4).*

## The Purposes of Church Discipline

- (1) To bring glory to God and enhance the testimony of the flock.*

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<sup>1</sup> R. C. Sproul, *In Search of Dignity*, Regal Books, 1983, p. 182.

<sup>2</sup> Carl Laney, *A Guide to Church Discipline*, Bethany House Publishers, p. 14.

(2) *To restore, heal, and build up sinning believers (Matt. 18:15; 2 Thess. 3:14-15; Heb. 12:10-13; Gal. 6:1-2; Jam. 5:20).*

(3) *To produce a healthy faith, one sound in doctrine (Tit. 1:13; 1 Tim. 1:19-20).*

(4) *To win a soul to Christ, if the sinning person is only a professing Christian (2 Tim. 2:24-26).*

(5) *To silence false teachers and their influence in the church (Tit. 1:10-11).*

(6) *To set an example for the rest of the body and promote godly fear (1 Tim. 5:20).*

(7) *To protect the church against the destructive consequences that occur when churches fail to carry out church discipline. A church that fails to exercise discipline experiences four losses:*

- **The Loss of Purity:** Church discipline is vital to the purity of the local body and its protection from moral decay and impure doctrinal influences. Why? Because a little leaven leavens the entire lump (1 Cor. 5:6-7). This is the “rotten apple” problem or the “snowball” effect.

An illustration of this is the Corinthian church which showed a lack of concern for purity. They neglected the responsibility to discipline and suffered as a result. Their insensitivity to one moral issue may have led to their compromise on other issues. Laney writes, “The Corinthians engaged in lawsuits, misused their liberty, profaned the Lord’s Supper, neglected the primacy of love, failed to regulate the use of their gifts, and questioned the resurrection.”<sup>3</sup> Failure in church discipline in Corinth could be compared to a snowball tumbling downhill.

- **The Loss of Power:** Sin in the life of the church grieves the person of the Holy Spirit and quenches His power. If sin remains unchecked by the loving application of church discipline in a body of believers, the Holy Spirit must abandon such a church to its own carnal resources. The unavoidable result will be the loss of the Lord’s blessing until the sin is dealt with.

The defeat of Israel because of the sin of Achan in Joshua 7 illustrates the principle. This is just as true for the church today, especially when we know certain things exist but ignore them or simply look the other way because it is difficult to deal with or because it involves one of our friends and we do not want to risk causing problems in the relationship.

- **The Loss of Progress:** A church that refuses to practice church discipline will see its ministry decline. The church may want to grow and reach out and it may try all kinds of stop gap measures, promotional campaigns, and programs in an attempt to turn things around, but if there is sin in the camp, it will all be to no avail. See Revelation 2:5 and 3:16 for illustrations of this principle.
- **The Loss of Purpose:** As His ambassadors to a lost and dying world, God has called the church to be a holy people, a people who, standing out as distinct from the world, proclaim the excellencies of the works of God in Christ (1 Pet. 1:14-16; 2:9-15). If this is to occur, we must be different from the world and church discipline helps us to both remember and maintain that purpose. One of the recurring judgments against the church today as demonstrated in various polls taken across the country is the fact there is little or no difference between the church and the secular world when it comes to attitudes, values, morals, and lifestyle. We have lost our sense of purpose.

## **The Practice of Church Discipline**

### **The Manner**

*The above goals or purposes automatically govern the spirit in which all disciplinary action is to be given. Thus:*

(1) *Discipline must be done by those who are spiritual, truly walking by the Holy Spirit and growing in the Lord (Gal. 6:1).*

(2) *Discipline must be done in a spirit of humility, gentleness and patience, looking to ourselves lest we too be tempted (Gal. 6:1-2; 2 Tim. 2:24-25).*

(3) *Discipline must be done without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality (1 Tim. 5:21).*

(4) *Those who walk disorderly are to be admonished, warned, and appealed to in love (1 Thess. 5:14-15; 1 Tim. 5:1-2; Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:2). This admonishing, is not restricted to church leaders, but may be done by any person in the body with another if that person is Spirit controlled and spiritually minded (cf. 1 Thess. 5:14 with Gal. 6:1).*

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 20.

***(5) If there is no response in repentance and obedience, then the sinning believer is to be rebuked publicly and members of the body are to withhold intimate fellowship through the process and procedure of group disapproval and social ostracism as prescribed in the next section, Procedures for Church Discipline below (2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15; Tit. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:20). This action has a two-fold objective:***

- It is to indicate to the offender that his/her action has dishonored the Lord and has caused a rupture in the harmony of the body. The goal is always restoration and the person is still to be counted as a brother (2 Thess. 3:14-15).
- It is to create fear in the rest of the flock as a warning against sin (1 Tim. 5:20).

***(6) If there is still no response in repentance and obedience, the church is to apply the procedures of excommunication as directed in Matthew 18:17.***

***Several examples of church discipline are found in Scripture. The Corinthian believers were to be “gathered together” in order to take action against the offending brother (1 Cor. 5:4-5; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:6-15; Phil. 3:17-19).***

***This is defined by Paul as “punishment inflicted by the majority” (2 Cor. 2:6). As a protective measure, we also find that the whole church in Rome and in Thessalonica were to take action with regard to the unruly and schismatic, not just a few (2 Thess. 3:6-15; Rom. 16:17).***

***(7) Finally, discipline in the name of our Lord always includes a readiness to forgive. The many or majority who discipline must also be ready and eager to forgive, comfort, and reaffirm their love to the sinning person (2 Cor. 2:6-8). (See Procedures for Church Discipline below.)***

## **Reasons for Church Discipline**

***In church discipline we must exercise extreme care. Scripture does not warrant the exercise of discipline for an individual’s or a church’s taboos or pet peeves—the “dirty dozen” or the “nasty nine.” Scripture, not our opinions or dislikes, must be the guide for what is sin. Further, we must not become hypercritical or “speck inspectors.”***

***(1) General Causes: Disorderly conduct, conduct clearly out of line with the prescribed commands of Scripture and which negatively impacts the testimony and unity of the church (2 Thess. 3:6-15).***

***(2) Specific Causes:***

- Difficulties between members (Matt. 18:15-17).
- Divisive or factious people causing divisions in the church (Rom. 16:17-18; Titus 3:9-11).
- Immoral conduct; sins of the type mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5 such as incest, immorality, covetousness, idolatry, abusive speech, drunkenness, swindling, or idle busybodies who refuse to work and run around spreading dissension (1 Cor. 5:1, 11; 2 Thess. 3:10-15).
- False teaching; erroneous teaching and views which concern the fundamentals of the faith and not lesser differences of interpretation (1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:17-18; also implied in Rev. 2:14-16; Phil. 3:2-3, 15-19; Rom. 16:17-18).

***The key concerns that guide us in this are: (a) the holy character of God, (b) the testimony of the flock, (c) the effect upon the unity and purity of the flock, and (d) the edification and restoration of the individual.***

## **Procedures for Church Discipline**

***The scriptural procedure is clear and specific steps are prescribed as follows:***

### **Cautions**

***If you see the offense or you have accurate knowledge of the sin(s), please note these cautions:***

- Be sure it is an offense which calls for discipline and not merely one of our pet peeves. Again, the Word must be our criterion.
- Remember how we too have sinned in the past and heed the warnings of Galatians 6:1.
- Bring the matter before the Lord in prayer before the confrontation takes place (1 Sam. 8:6).
- Don’t procrastinate. The longer the delay, the more difficult the condition can become. Remember the consequences listed above.

- Don't gossip or even talk to others about it in the sense of Matthew 18:16 until you have talked to the sinning believer privately. We must guard and protect the person and the flock from rumors and a slanderous tongue (Prov. 6:19b; 10:19; 11:13; 18:8, 21; 20:19).

### **First Step**

*First, seek private correction and/or reconciliation with the offender (Matt. 18:15). In Matthew 18:15 many manuscripts have "and if your brother sins against you, go and reprove him in private."*

*There has been no little debate as to whether the words "against you" are part of the original manuscripts. The words "against me" in verse 21 may have led a scribe or copyist to personalize the matter in verse 15. Or, one could argue the omission was deliberate in order to generalize the passage.*

*While some important manuscript tradition lacks the words "against you," many feel there is good evidence for their originality. First, the words, "reprove him in private," and second, the question of Peter in verse 21 about forgiving a brother who sins "against me" suggests their inclusion.*

*Whether the words "against you" were in the original text or not, Galatians 6:1 teaches that believers have a responsibility to confront sin in general in the life of other believers and not just when it is an offense against one's person. It would seem, then that there is a two-fold application:*

- (1) When the problem involves one believer sinning against another, there are two problems that need to be taken care of: reconciliation and restoration (Matt. 5:23-24).*
- (2) When the problem involves a believer overcome in or by some sin, as was the case in Galatians 6:1, the need is restoration.*

*Matthew 18:16-17 should not be limited to the problem of one believer sinning against another in view of Galatians 6:1. So, the one offended or who recognizes the offense or sin is to go privately and try to rectify the problem.*

*Please note these guidelines:*

- (1) Begin by expressing your genuine appreciation for the person and their good qualities to show you are genuinely concerned about their welfare. Then and only then bring up the matter which is of concern.*
- (2) In some situations the sin is apparent and there is no question, but we must allow for the possibility that we have misjudged or have wrong information. We must listen to the other person's side of the story and seek the facts in the interest of truth and fairness.*
- (3) If the person fails to respond, warn them that, according to the instructions of Scripture (Matt. 18:16), you will have to get others as witnesses and return with them to deal with the problem.*

### **Second Step**

*If the first step fails, take witnesses to strengthen the effect of the discipline, preferably spiritual leaders, so that if it has to be brought before the whole church it can be firmly proven and established (Matt. 18:16-17; 1 Tim. 5:19). The aid of church leadership should be sought if the problem involves an offense that is against the whole body or if it is a threat to the unity of the body.*

*These initial contacts, private and with witnesses, provide opportunity for loving admonition, correction, and forgiveness. On the other hand, if these first steps do not produce results, it constitutes a warning that further action will be taken and provides occasion for serious rebuke (2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Titus 2:15; 3:10).*

### **Third Step**

*If the second step fails, seek reconciliation and restoration through the whole body. If further action is necessary, it is to be taken before the whole church (2 Thess. 3:14-15; Matt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 5:20).*

*This action appears to fall into two stages when we combine 2 Thessalonians 3:14 and 1 Corinthians 5:9-13 with Matthew 18:17.*

- (1) The body is to exercise group disapproval by way of social ostracism (refusal to have intimate fellowship).*
- (2) If this doesn't work, the local body of believers is to exercise excommunication: removal from church membership, loss of voting privileges, and continuation of the loss of intimate fellowship. This must be approved of and done by the entire congregation (2 Cor. 2:6).*

*This is, in essence, the Lord carrying out discipline through the action of the entire body under the leadership of the elders or the spiritually mature (1 Cor. 5:4). Similar heavenly authority is seen in the ratification of this disciplinary action as spelled out in Matthew 18:18-19.*

## Procedures for Restoration

### Forgiveness

*In keeping with the goal of restoration, the role of the church must change after there is repentance.*

*This means accepting the person and forgetting the past (2 Cor. 2:7a).*

*But how do we know when repentance is genuine? What is our responsibility when the sinning party acknowledges their wrong and claims repentance? The following two passages answer this for us.*

Luke 3:8, when they “. . . bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance.”

Acts 26:20, “. . . that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.”

*Genuine repentance will make itself evident by its deeds and attitudes. The repentant person will:*

- (1) Freely acknowledge his sin (1 Jn. 1:9; Prov. 28:13a).*
- (2) Cease the activity for which he was disciplined or at least seek help if it's a case of life dominating patterns (Prov. 28:13b; Gal. 6:1f; Jam. 5:19-20).*
- (3) Make restitution and/or ask for forgiveness from those hurt as it is applicable (Phil. 18-19; Matt. 5:23-24).*
- (4) He/she will demonstrate a genuine change of heart, a real concern and godly sorrow over his actions, not in order to be forgiven, but because of the harm caused to the glory of God and the hurt caused others (2 Cor. 7:8-11; Ps. 51:17).*
- (5) He/she will begin to manifest the fruit of the Spirit and a concern for the things of Christ (Gal. 5:22f).*

### Comfort

*This means reaching out to them, assuring them of your support, and encouraging, exhorting, and challenging them to move on (2 Cor. 2:7b).*

### Love

*This means including them, drawing them close, doing for them that which will aid their growth and complete recovery (2 Cor. 2:8). This would include encouraging them to get involved in ministry (Luke 22:31-32). For positions of leadership, there should be a time of testing to demonstrate their qualifications after the analogy of 1 Timothy 3:10.*

*For excellent and more complete studies on this subject, see (1) A Guide to Church Discipline, by Carl Laney, Bethany House Publishers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1985, and (2) Healing the Wounded, The Costly Love of Church Discipline, by John White and Ken Blue, Inter-Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 1985.*

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# **Harvest Church**

## **Job Description for**

### **Discipleship/Biblical Counseling**

#### **Pastors**

#### **A. QUALIFICATIONS - he or she must:**

- have a vital and growing relationship with Jesus Christ
- be above reproach and of good reputation
- know their Bible thoroughly and be able to teach
- manage their family well
- be committed to the “Growing Tree”, the vision, mission, and statement of Harvest Church
- demonstrate the ability to develop fully committed Christ followers
- demonstrate the spiritual gifts of exhortation and mercy
- have the ability to recruit and train volunteers
- be thoughtful, gentle, and patient

**B. MINISTRY Responsibilities - he or she must:**

- agree with and support the Mission Statement of the Fire Department
- attend the monthly staff meetings and the annual staff retreat
- meet with people in crisis and provide them with solace and guidance from the Bible
- select people to disciple and follow through their training
- teach "mind of Christ groups"
- assist people in forming small groups
- communicate with our volunteers
- participate in special events and planning
- attend a Harvest worship service weekly
- pray consistently for those whom we serve

**A. RELATIONSHIPS**

- report to Pastor of Discipleship and Biblical Counseling
- coordinate with and serve other members of the church staff

**What Does God Really Want Us to Do?  
(To get saved, to get well, to get going!)**

It all begins with:

***Belief***

*in God and His one and only mediator, Jesus Christ*  
("Pistis" - Greek word for trust, reliance, faith)

John 6:28&29

Heb. 11:1-6

which produces

***Love***

*for the triune God and our fellow man*

Matt. 22:36-40

which produces

***Obedience***

John 14:21

1 John 2:3-6

which produces both

***Personal Holiness***

("Hagiasmos" - Greek word for sanctification; the conduct befitting those separated to God)

Rom. 12: 1&2 1 Peter 1:15

and

***Kingdom Service***

**Planned Service**    **Spontaneous Service**  
1 Cor 9:24-27        1 Pet 3:15

ie.

***The Results - We:***

- 1. Please God**  
Ps. 51:16&17
- 2. Attract the Righteous**  
1 Cor. 1:18
- 3. Anger the Wicked**  
1 Peter. 4:4&5

Phillip and the Eunuch (Acts 8: 4-40)

***The Results - We:***

- 1. Bear Burdens**  
Gal. 6:2
- 2. Make Disciples**  
Matt. 28:19&20
- 3. Meet the needs of the poor**  
Gal. 2:10

**The Gospel Commandments of Leadership**  
**(Principles for those great souls who are engaged in the battle)**

- 1. People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love and trust them anyway.** *"Father, forgive them. They know not what they do."*
- 2. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.** *"And Jesus told them, 'you are like children who don't know what they want. John the Baptist came neither eating nor drinking and you said he had a demon. The Son of Man comes eating and drinking, and you say I am a glutton, a friend of sinners."*
- 3. If you are successful you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.** *The crowds who cheered Him on Sunday and called Him King were the same who on Friday cried, "Crucify Him." Even the priests said, "We have no king but Caesar."*
- 4. The service you render today will be forgotten tomorrow. Serve people anyway.** *"Were not ten lepers cleansed, and only one returned to give thanks? My words will bring division."*
- 5. Honesty and frankness will make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.** *"And Jesus said, 'Do not think I've come to bring peace to the world."*
- 6. The biggest men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men with the smallest ideas. Think big anyway.** *"During the supper the Lord Jesus foretold that one of them would betray Him ... the Disciples questions which one it might be, and a dispute rose among them as to which was the greatest."*
- 7. People pretend to love the "little" people anyway, but sell their souls to the "big" people. Fight for the "little" people anyway.** *"Let little children come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of heaven."*
- 8. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.** *"Judas came, kissed Him, and they took hold of Him ... then all the disciples forsook Him and fled."*
- 9. People really need help, but may attack you if you do help. Help people anyway.** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to preach'... but all who heard Him thrust Him out."*
- 10. Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.** *"Pilate said, 'Who shall I give unto you ... the murderer and robber, Barabbus, or Jesus, who is called the Christ?' And they cried, Give us Barabbus!"*

**John 15:18-19 NIV**

***If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.***

