

LIGHTBEARERS DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITY AGREEMENT

Name _____

“That their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Colossians 2:2-3

The **Lightbearers Discipleship Community** is designed to equip people in their spiritual, intellectual and daily lives by providing a Christ-centered community in which they can grow and mature. Faith plays out in community rather than in isolation, so we know Christ better as we share life with other believers. We recognize that each of us are at different points in our spiritual journey and some Lightbearers participants view the community as a place of spiritual investigation rather than commitment to Christ. In any event, it is our experience that clear expectations best facilitate life together. Therefore, making the choice to be a part of Lightbearers means having an appreciation for the guiding principles of Lightbearers discipleship outlined below and choosing to abide by the community expectations on the following page.

Core Guiding Principles

1. We affirm and honor Scripture. (Colossians 1:21-22; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119)

In the context of God’s grace we . . .

- Understand that Christ has reconciled us to God;
- Desire to place Jesus at the center of our beliefs and practices;
- Get the principles for our life together from Scripture and live according to its authoritative instruction.

We agree that Scripture is the community’s authority for faith and life; therefore, we agree to submit to its instruction. This submission to Scripture affects us as individuals (i.e. we spend time reading and studying Scripture) and as a community (i.e. Scripture is both the content and the context of our conversation).

2. We endeavor to live with purity. (Leviticus 20:7; Proverbs 11:3; Matthew 5:8; 1 Corinthians 6:20)

In the context of God’s grace we . . .

- Recognize that we still battle sin
- Strive to live our lives with authenticity, willing to share our struggles and victories while attempting to align our actions with Christian principles;
- Engage in all our work with honesty and integrity.

We repent and rid ourselves of our sin, and we strive to live in a way that does not bring stain on the name of Christ. We focus attention on the major issue of the Gospel rather than on the secondary issues of practice.

3. We actively participate within the community. (Philippians 2:3; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 John 4:20-21)

In the context of God's grace we . . .

- Participate in a local expression of the Body of Christ;
- Believe our time, talents and relationships are not our own but gifts to be stewarded for the glory of God and the good of others;
- Work to love our neighbors as ourselves and encourage one another to live to the glory of God, stimulating one another to love and good deeds.
- Put the good of the community above our individual desires, following the example of Christ in voluntarily choosing to serve rather than to be served.

We recognize that community is built on shared purpose; therefore, we ascribe to the higher purpose of following Christ, and we refuse self-reliance and choose to depend on and support one another. We extend grace to one another and speak the truth in love. The words we speak to each other, our attitudes toward each other and our time spent together all reflect these values.

Specific Responsibilities

We agree that the life of Christian faith is one of sacrifice and service, and we sacrifice some of our own freedoms in order to serve our community and to be a pure and holy witness (1 Corinthians 9:19). This decision includes a commitment to:

- Prioritize Lightbearers Institute and house meeting times in our schedule and to communicate absences to our house leader
- Maintain a Christ-honoring profile on the Internet (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, blog, etc.)
- Abstain from alcohol, tobacco, or other addictive substances in a manner consistent with the law. In addition, protect against becoming a stumbling block to others by avoiding these substances in social settings and in a residence with underage Lightbearers participants
- Protect against sexual temptation and ensure that members of the opposite sex primarily visit when a roommate is present, and only in living spaces or bedrooms with the door open. Members of the opposite sex should not be present at the house after 1:00 AM.
- Use wisdom and Scriptural guidance when making choices regarding movies and television, video games, computer use, outward appearance/dress, media-generated material, and other entertainment
- Meet regularly with a mentor approved by Lightbearers (2-4 times/month)
- Participate in missions in a manner approved by Lightbearers staff
- Steward the Lightbearers property well by making wise use of utilities and facilities

We understand that Scripture calls us to “confess our sins to one another” (James 5:16) and encourages us that “as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17); therefore, we acknowledge that it is our responsibility and our blessing to confess to, confront and encourage each other regarding the areas discussed in this document.

When needed, we will follow a model of accountability consistent with Biblical principles. In practice, this process will begin with a conversation with our house leader. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, we will meet with a Lightbearers staff member.

A second failure to respond to clarity and correction will normally result in the notification of the resident's parents or other spiritual authority identified below:

Name: _____

Relationship to Resident: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

A third failure to meet these guidelines may result in immediate termination of the housing agreement (with final payment being made in accordance with the housing agreement policies).

Lightbearers participants are called to abide by the community expectations listed above for the duration of their participation in the program, and in accordance with the housing agreement, withdrawal from the residence and discipleship community at any point will bring about the early move-out penalty outlined in the housing agreement.

____ I understand that the final page of this agreement will be completed with my house group at Orientation.

Appendix

While Lightbearers has set up a basic framework for life within the community, there are a myriad of everyday decisions and actions where unity will be tested. To that end, please take time to share individual expectations and come to agreement on decisions where community members often arrive with varying expectations. Some of these topics are listed below, but each community may add their own. You will complete this page as a house at Lightbearers discipleship orientation and/or by August 31.

In each area, it is important to remember that we look out "not merely for our own interests but also for the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

Property Address:

Our decisions regarding the following:

Weekly group meeting times and plan:

Household responsibilities (i.e. cleaning, dishes, etc.):

House costs (groceries, Internet, etc.):

Conflict resolution:

Other points of discussion (Internet filters, noise level, guests, spiritual unity or actions, etc.):

Commitment Affirmation

As a participant in the LDC, I have read the commitment above and agree with fellow community members to live by its direction.
