

Youth Ministry Expectations

August 2018

We know how much you love your children and the youth of CMBC—and we do too! Many of us youth leaders are parents ourselves, so we are invested in this ministry.

And as parents we understand the need for boundaries, the need for rules so that things can run smoothly. And although every family is different and has their own rules, beliefs, and ways of functioning, when we come together we need to have some shared guidelines that we all follow to help us achieve our purposes for having youth group—the CMBC Youth Ministry exists to equip the youth of today to become mature disciples of Christ who can impact their world by setting an example that reflects Christ. Our desire is that any youth that come through our program become deeply rooted in a personal walk with Christ so that throughout their lives they stand firm in their hope and foundation on God’s Word and will pursue God’s purpose for their lives. To put it simply—Deeply Rooted to Radically Impact.

To help us the CMBC Youth program has set up a few guidelines and expectations for all to follow:

- Glorify God in all that we do [*1 Corinthians 10:31—So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*]
 - Our speech—kind, edifying, uplifting (no gossip, no vulgarity, etc.)
 - Our dress—modest, focus is on God not on us
 - Our actions—show kindness and respect
- Focus on God, especially during teaching/small group times [*Hebrews 2:1—Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it*]
 - Cell phones will be collected at the doors of the youth building, will be given back after teaching/small groups (Bibles are available in the Youth building if their Bible is on their phone). We will also ask students to refrain from using social media during youth activities. We want to respect the laws about pictures of underage students, and the families who do not want their children on social media, etc.
 - We may also ask for items from students that could pose a distraction to them or to others. Please note that no drugs, alcohol, smoking, or weapons are permitted either at CMBC or at CMBC Youth Events.
 - Be attentive / listen to teachers & leaders

God is interested in our hearts, not just our outward behavior, because our hearts is where real and lasting change takes place [*from Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller of the National Center for Biblical Parenting*]. We want to use every teachable moment—whether during a formal teaching time, small group time, on a van ride, etc.—to help build the inner character of the youth and their need to follow the Lord in every area of their lives.

Appropriate Consequences

When the need arises to address a youth (their heart and their behavior), the Youth Leaders:

- Will be consistent with our expectations and with the consequences.
- Will address the youth in an age-appropriate way (Junior Highers are different than High Schoolers).
- Will endeavor to have the consequences match the misbehavior.
- Will address the youth directly, looking at them and being with them (i.e. not addressing from across the room, etc.).
- Will address the student gently and quietly, without embarrassing him or her or interrupting the activity. We will try to remind them of a better choice and clarify expectations.
- Will, if needed, move the student away from the problem or remove the distraction from them.
- Will, if needed, ask the student to take a break—a short, quiet time removed from the group to think about what they are doing wrong, why it is wrong, and what they will do differently.
- Will, when the break is over, address the student with a positive conclusion:
 - Ask what they did wrong/dishonoring?
 - Why was it wrong/dishonoring?
 - What will they do differently?
- Will inform the parents of any issues involving their youth
 - We will do this as soon as practical
 - We will try to give the whole picture, not just isolated incidences
 - We will do this with you privately
 - We will bring this to your attention so that you can share with us your thoughts on how to handle and move forward (you have information that we do not)
 - We will ask for your help
- Every day is a new day—God’s mercies are new every morning...and so ours should be! We will greet each youth with a loving smile each and every week. We will give them the opportunity to try again.