

A STATEMENT ON LIFESTYLE CHOICES FOR STAFF AT CLOVER PASS COMMUNITY CHURCH

As those who have been charged with responsibilities at Clover Pass Community Church as paid staff doing ministry; including but not limited to Clover Pass Community Church pastoral or administrative, Clover Pass Christian School or Clover Pass Christian Day Care, we embrace our calling to become fully engaged in the life and mission of Jesus. In agreement with the Apostle Paul's words in Colossians 1:28-29, we believe it is normative for us to proclaim Christ, influence others toward maturity in Him and lead with the energy that He so powerfully provides for our lives. As believers in Christ, serving a lost world steeped in its pursuit of idols, it is imperative that we commit ourselves to living and leading in close relationship to Christ.

We believe that our lives are designed to reflect Christ in every way. As such, we understand that the enemy of our souls desires to unseat Christ as our Master in ways that undermine and compromise our character and influence as staff. The various elements of our daily lives - time, family, sex, money, dress, speech, entertainment, work, friendships, food, drink, social media, etc. - comprise an incomplete list in which both Christ and Satan work and compete for control. In each element of our lives, we recognise that we are called to live holy lives of dependence on Christ rather than on the world and its influence on us. When we lose self-control and reflect more of the world than we do of Christ, we must confess our sin and repent of any attitude or action that destroys the work of Christ in us.

The holiness that is to mark our lives comes from Christ and Him alone. Holiness is a by-product of the Spirit's work who lives within us. In relationship to Jesus Christ, we are sanctified thoroughly by being separated from sin and the world and fully dedicated to God, receiving power for holy living and sacrificial and effective service toward the completion of Christ's commission. This is accomplished through being filled with the Holy Spirit which is both a distinct event and a progressive experience in the life of the believer [1 Thessalonians 5:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1,2; Galatians 5:16-25].

Thus we dedicate ourselves to both a lifestyle and a style of leadership that reflects the reality that we have been set apart by God to live holy lives. Living for Christ inevitably demands that we make daily decisions as to how we will live. It is helpful for us to flesh out Biblical principles which are pertinent to our lives as leaders in order to maintain a standard of holiness and continue to reflect Christ in our lives. We choose to live by the following principles in the decisions we make concerning our daily lifestyles.

1. **The Principle of Scripture:** We choose the Scriptures as the source of truth by which we live and measure our lives. As leaders, we will allow the word of God to speak into our lifestyle choices. We will not seek to establish any standard or rule of behaviour beyond what is indisputably set in the Scriptures. We will refrain from drunkenness, all forms of addictive behaviour and other self-destructive habits that are clearly prohibited in Scripture. (Psalm 119:1-8; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Timothy 3:1-3)
2. **The Principle of Honour:** We desire to honour Christ in every aspect of our lives. In making lifestyle choices each day - concerning what we eat and drink for example - we choose to make those decisions in the name of Jesus and for the glory of God our Father. (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)
3. **The Principle of Stewardship:** We believe that godly leaders are to care for their whole beings - body, soul and spirit - in a disciplined and God-honouring way that reflects a careful and consistent stewardship of who God has made us. As such, we commit to making choices that lead to wellness in areas such as exercise, diet, sleep, time and stress management, life balance and emotional fitness. (Proverbs 3:1-2; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Peter 4:10)

- 4. The Principle of Relationship:** We are people called to live well in our relationships. As sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, we are invited to relationship with Him. He also commands us to walk well in relationship to those around us in the community of faith and among those who do not yet know Christ. Thus, we will pursue health and purity in all our relationships, be sexually and emotionally faithful to our spouse and family members, remain sexually abstinent outside of a marriage relationship, and choose patterns of behaviour that lead to mutual edification and the building up of others. (Matthew 5:13-16; 22:38-39; Romans 13:8,10; Colossians 2:6-7)
- 5. The Principle of Personal Conviction:** We recognize that in the community of faith, individual believers may make differing choices in regard to lifestyle. We recognize the importance of meeting together in community, in regular attendance in church. [Heb 10:19-25] When a community of believers struggles regarding disputable matters of conscience, New Testament movement is not toward asking a larger body of believers to make authoritative and binding decisions. Instead the Scriptures call for individual believers to function by faith under God and to come to the point of being fully convinced in their own minds about what is right for them. We choose to live in the reality of our accountability to God for the choices we make. (Acts 15; Romans 14)
- 6. The Principle of the Weaker Brother:** We affirm that the spiritual success of others always trumps our personal freedom and that our private lives are not exclusively our own. There are areas of our lives which we label as permissible and yet are not profitable for us as those who serve in leadership roles. Although we may hold differing viewpoints regarding specific behaviours, we choose to avoid situations that may have a negative spiritual impact on others. Thus we will limit our freedoms rather than weaken our ministry to others and we will conduct ourselves in a manner that strengthens rather than weakens the work of Christ in others, particularly those who are new to following Christ. (Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 6:12; 8:9-13; 9:27; 10:23-24; Titus 2:4)
- 7. The Principle of Peace:** We deeply desire to be people of peace. Where the Scriptures are not explicit in their teaching, we will determine and practice by faith behaviour that benefits others and leads to peace and mutual edification in the body. Wherever it is possible, so far as it depends on us, we will choose to live at peace with everyone. We will do all that we can to do what leads to peace and mutual edification. (Romans 12:18; 14:19)
- 8. The Principle of Submission:** We believe in a clear Biblical mandate that calls us to submit to those whom God has placed over us in the Lord. Thus we choose to walk with humility and willingly submit to those in authority over us when it comes to the lifestyle choices that we make. (Hebrews 13:17)

As a staff member at Clover Pass Community Church, I dedicate myself to being fully engaged in the life and mission of Jesus. I desire to do this by power of His Spirit according to the principles set forth above. When I recognize a lack of self-control in my life and recognise that I am making a consistent choice to live in ways that are not in keeping with the Scriptures' call to holiness, I will choose to speak with my lead pastor, one of the Elders or my immediate supervisor. I recognize that in such a situation, those in authority over me will do their best to provide assistance to restore me spirituality by leading me under Christ's lordship, restoring purity and self-control and repair any damage done to Christ's reputation. If I am not willing to do this, I will choose to resign from my position of service at Clover Pass Community Church.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____