

# Code of Christian Conduct

Oakwoods Baptist Church is and will always be dedicated to developing young people of Christian character and integrity. Our staff and volunteers attempt to promote a loving, positive attitude toward disciplining the students in our care.

We believe that discipline means to direct or change a person's behavior in an effective and, whenever possible, non-degrading manner. Discipline is a process; therefore, our goal is to help students conduct themselves at all times in manner becoming a Christian.

Oakwoods recognizes that while Scriptures do not provide specific teaching regarding all social practices, they do advocate self-restraint in that which is harmful (1 Corinthians 6:19) or offensive to others (1 Corinthians 8:9). Christian conduct is expected of students at all times (both at church and away from the church). As we commit ourselves to a code of conduct that glorifies the Lord no matter where we are, it will benefit others as well as ourselves.

Listed below are a few character traits that we believe would please God and promote better relationships:

**Self-Control** "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." (Philippians 4:5, KJV) The quality of our church is largely affected by our desire to practice moderation in our behavior. Our study sessions will function better in calm, sometimes quiet and controlled environment. Our study sessions will also be more effective with a bible and without the possession of a cell phone, I-Pod, or any other mechanical device. We must constantly be reminded that our failure to practice moderation in words, actions and lifestyle, greatly impacts the ability of those around us. Practicing self-control as a youth group will create a setting that is pleasing to God.

**Good Manners** "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8-9). Our actions and our speech quickly let folks know the factors which motivate us in our relationships. We should practice on a daily basis being courteous to those around us and go out of our way to live in harmony with them. Just a simple action or word can go a long way to express our love and concern for others. Coupled with our desire to be courteous should also be a desire to show respect to those in authority over us. WE should respond to them in a manner that shows appreciation to them for accepting the responsibility placed on them by God to assume a position of leadership.

**Integrity** "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known" (Proverbs 10:9) A church setting that is based on integrity provides a setting of peace and trust. We must maintain a church that is based on honesty of word and action. There never should be a hidden meaning in what we say and our actions must always be open to public scrutiny. There is just something about having a great comfort and sense of security and peace in an environment where practicing integrity is the norm.

**Love** "Beloved let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8) Loving other people first is not something that comes easy to us. It seems that our first desire is to always place ourselves first. We must constantly strive to "practice" loving one another and to put the needs and well-being of others first. God Is Love!

Oakwoods Baptist Church expects the students to adhere to the following standards:

- to **observe** Biblical morality in all relationships, word and deed. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of Spirit is all goodness and righteousness and truth" (Eph 5:8,9)
- to **act** with integrity. "I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness (Integrity)." (I Chron.29:17)
- to **practice** self-control. "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12)
- to **preserve** personal purity. "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sin: keep thyself pure." (I Tim. 5:22)
- to **approach** the church and its programs with a positive Christian attitude and refrain from negativism either in action, word, or appearance. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil 4:8)
- to **respond** properly to the authority of the home and school. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." (Heb. 13:17)
- to **regard** others with courtesy. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Matt. 7:12)
- to **refrain** from the possession, purchase, use, sale, and/or distribution of any alcoholic beverages, drug substances (which includes tobacco and tobacco products), drug-like substances, and/or any other drug paraphernalia. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:19,20)
- to **refrain** from possession of firearms, or any object used, intended or disguised as a weapon while on church property or a church-sponsored function. "Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." (Matt. 26:52)

God's Holy Word and The Code of Christian Conduct will be the standards that the Oakwoods Baptist Youth Group will be held to. Anytime that the student veers away from these standards a verbal, non degrading warning will be giving. The second time the student has to be directed back to the straight and narrow for the same thing, the Youth Pastor will have a meeting with the parents/guardians and student. At this time a period of time will be decided as to how long the student will not participate in any youth activities or meetings. During this time the student is required to attend regular services with their parent or guardian. If the student fails to attend than the dismissal time is prolonged.

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Parents Signature

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Student Signature