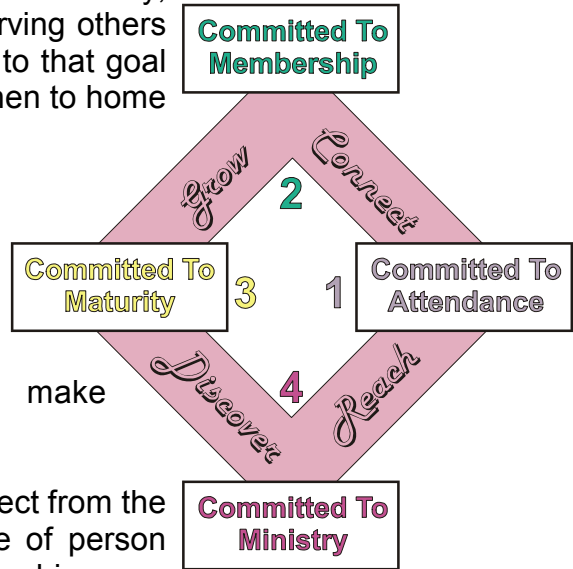
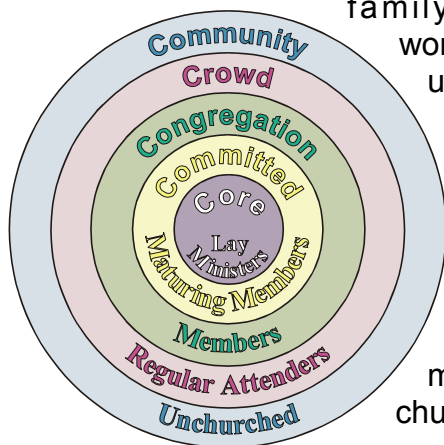


Joining the Core

Leadership Standards

Our commitment to Jesus Christ develops along a pathway of maturity. The goal of every Christian should be to grow toward maturity, finally becoming a Christ-like servant serving others through Jesus' church. The pathway that leads to that goal takes us to first, second and third bases... and then to home plate where we score and earn eternal rewards.

The core of the church is that group of ministering servants. They teach the classes, lead the church family in musical worship, serve as ushers, mold our children... they make CBC happen!



What do we expect from the core? What type of person do we want teaching our children? Caring for them in the nursery? Leading us in musical worship? Standing before our families as leaders in church service?

To be sure, God expects there to be a standard for our behavior. We read of such in the Ten Commandments, in I Peter 4, in I Timothy 3 and throughout the Bible. The standard to which we live becomes of great importance not only to ourselves but to those who look to us as leaders in Jesus' church.

Church at Philippi — God impressed this upon the church at Philippi...

"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect [mature], be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. {16} Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. {17} Brethren, be followers together of me, and **mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.**" (Philippians 3:15-17)

A church benefits from having mature Christians, people who are in agreement and live by the same rule, as those who lead the church. They become great examples. The opposite is also true — those who live lives that have no eternal value, who live for sensual pleasure, who are proud of what they should be ashamed of and whose lives revolve around the things of this world are not worthy of being entrusted with leadership (these three characterizations are listed in Philippians 3:19).

Notice that those being encouraged to "walk by the same rule" in order to be good leaders were already mature (v. 15 "perfect" = mature). Keeping a list of standards will not make you mature. Keeping a list of standards flows out of your maturity. Maturity will cause you to welcome standards of conduct for leaders.

Church at Thessalonica — When the apostle Paul established the church at Thessalonica he gave them a list of rules to live by....

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. {2} For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2)

From the previous passage (Philippians) we learned an important principle of leadership — leaders need to be held to a higher standard to provide examples for others to follow. This passage in Thessalonians reveals that Paul gave a list of rules for the general membership. Every member needs to grow toward higher levels of holy living and it is imperative that church leaders exemplify that holiness through their lives to provide the church with examples. What a blessing when our children, youth and new Christians have no difficulty finding someone to emulate at their church.

What list of standards should be established for the core of CBC? To be sure, the establishing of such a list could cause some disagreement. When discussing the practice of men wearing short hair and women wearing long hair (I Corinthians 11) Paul praised the church for following the example and teaching he had given (verse 1-2). He made it clear that there was to be no arguing over it.

"But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." (1 Corinthians 11:16)

Let's follow that — no arguing over the standards...it's just not our custom to argue. We are striving for unity, not division.

Let's continue building a leadership team which will help to promote the health of Jesus' church through living lives marked by the top two characteristics in God's model for church behavior — **unity** and **purity**.¹

LIFESTYLE GOALS OF MATURING LEADERS

Let's consider some practical lifestyle characteristics of people who are worthy of leadership in Jesus' church. These standards should be characteristic of a leader's life 24/7/365.

Standards Promoting Unity

1. Personally strive to promote the purpose, direction and heart of CBC as taught in pastor's *Discovering Church Membership* class. This direction is expressed in our *Statement of Belief* (Articles of Faith), and our *Statement of Operation* (Constitution & By-Laws).
2. Teach or promote no position or doctrinal ideas that would be in conflict with the statements listed above.

Standards Promoting Purity

1. Honor God by striving to live according to the principles of His holiness. i.e. honesty, discipline, self-control, ethical behavior, forgiveness, and kindness. We cannot serve others in His name if our life does not reflect His nature.

"As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: {15} But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; {16} Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16)

2. Honor God by spending time communicating with Him. This involves personal prayer and Bible reading. We cannot serve others in His name if we are not in regular fellowship with Him.

"But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." (Psalms 1:2)

"When I remember thee upon my bed, *and* meditate on thee in the *night* watches." (Psalm 63:6)

3. Honor God by giving your talents and possessions in service to Him. We cannot serve others in His name if we are thieves stealing from Him the things He owns.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. {9} Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation." (Malachi 3:8-9)

4. Honor God by maintaining a pure mind. This will effect what we watch on television/videos, the music to which we listen and the involvement we have with all literature and media (internet, etc.). We cannot serve others in His name if our minds are polluted with worldliness.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it* shall not cleave to me." (Psalm 101:3)

5. Honor God by maintaining physical purity. This will effect the clothing we wear and the contact we have with people to whom we are not married. God covered the bodies of Adam and Eve with clothing. Rebellion against God's morality tries to reveal the body through little or tight-fitting clothing. We cannot serve others in His name if our bodies are the object of immoral affection.

"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? {20} For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

"For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: {4} That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;" (1 Thess. 4:3-4)

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is* good for a man not to touch a woman." (1 Corinthians 7:1)

"...whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matthew 5:28)

6. Honor God by not putting substances in our bodies that would harm us, cause us to lose control, or in any way compromise our purity. Therefore we abstain from all non-medical use of drugs (including alcohol via "social drinking"), including the abuse of prescription drugs. We cannot serve others in His name if we are promoting the destruction of health and ethics via drugs.

"Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? {30} They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. {31} Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. {32} At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." (Proverbs 23:29-32)

“Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations.” (Leviticus 10:9)

“For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink: and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb....” (Luke 1:15)

BEING APPROPRIATE WHILE AT CHURCH

Let’s consider some practical standards for leaders at church services and programs. These standards should be exemplified by a leader’s life when they are attending and/or ministering at church.

Clothing

Every church has dress standards for leaders. We have converted our clothing concerns into two goals:

- 1) Appropriateness – our “corporate” reflection needs to bring honor to God. We come to church services to worship God and do His business — this is not a gym or baseball game. Our God is worthy of our respect. American society is rapidly losing it’s sense of appropriateness, particularly when it comes to the worship of a majestic and holy God.
- 2) Modesty – some clothing styles are created and promoted by people whose lifestyles are immoral and who use clothing styles to promote immodesty and it’s resultant immorality. Accordingly, some styles invite immorality in the mind.

Due to this two-fold concern, we seek to maintain the following basic standards for people who have taken the leadership responsibility of ministering to others at CBC (singers, ushers, nursery workers, children’s ministry teachers and helpers, etc.). Note that it may be appropriate in some particular ministry positions to dress to a higher standard than these minimums.

1. Men in slacks and a neat shirt. No jeans, t-shirts, etc.
2. Ladies in dresses or skirt/blouse outfits to the knee. No jeans, slacks, shorts, skirts with slits above the knees, mini-skirts, tight-fitting or low-cut apparel, etc.

NOTE FOR FEMALE MUSICIANS & CHOIR MEMBERS:

Due to the fact that being on the platform and in the choir area elevates you while the congregation is seated, ladies apparel must extend below the above-referenced minimum length of the top of the knee. Lengths to the bottom of the knee should be considered the minimum and, depending upon the outfit, lengths below that may be more appropriate.

Teaching Content/Tools

Teachers are in a position to rob the church of unity more quickly than any others. We are committed to structuring the ministry to allow many to have the opportunity to teach. For the sake of the future unity of CBC it is imperative that today’s teachers be committed to our position.

The following are essential for all Children, Youth and Adult ministry teachers.

1. Teach in conformity to CBC’s *Articles of Faith*. This is a summary of the key doctrines of the Bible. Be aware of the doctrines presented from the pulpit ministry of pastor. He is responsible before God for the doctrine taught at CBC.

"Remember them which have the rule [leadership] over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation." (Hebrews 13:7).

"Obey them that have the rule [leadership] 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." (Hebrews 13:17)

In order for teachers to be aware of the direction and doctrine of CBC it is important for them to be faithful to the preaching services. Sunday morning messages will provide the momentum for reaching people with the Christian message. Sunday evening messages will address church family issues and practical Christian living issues. Teachers cannot maintain a united direction if they are not under the pulpit ministry of pastor.

2. Use only the KJV in every class and ministry. Pastor is among the many Christian leaders who have serious concerns regarding the reliability of many modern translations. These concerns stem from the source and translation theory of modern translators. Accordingly, the KJV is to be the only translation used in teaching, reading and memorizing in our ministries. At times, we use material that includes Scriptures from other translations. This is not an endorsement of, or encouragement to use, those Scriptures.

Exception: when someone is asked to read from the Bible they brought they are not to be *put down* or made to feel in any way unaccepted if they read from another translation.

Conclusion

It is not the church's intention to micro inspect every person's private lives to determine if they are striving to mature in their unity with the church and purity of life. We expect each member, as they accept the responsibility of leadership, to accept this list of standards as the reflection of their life, or, at the very least, as the goal they are currently and actively pursuing.

Let's provide the children, new Christians and all members and attenders of CBC with a team of ministers who are agreeably and excitedly holding a standard of unity and purity which all can follow to their benefit and God's glory.

And remember, "...if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." (1 Corinthians 11:16)

¹Our 1999 Sunday evening study of *Ephesians* discovered that God held unity and purity as His two priorities for His church at Ephesus.