

Behavioral Covenant

We agree, with the help of God, to relate to each other through Christ, and thus hold ourselves and each other to:

Follow the Great Commandment: **Matthew 22:37-39 (NKJV)** ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.*" ³⁸ This is *the* first and great commandment. ³⁹ And *the* second is like it: '*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*'

Listen to each other. "Let everyone be quick to hear and slow to speak..." James 1:19. Dietrich Bonhoeffer has stated: "The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them." Life Together p. 97

- We will try not to formulate what we want to say while someone else is speaking
- We will NOT assume the motivations or experiences of others
- We will seek clarification if needed

Respect the Privacy of Those Who Confide. "A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret." Pro 11:13

Challenge each other with the truth. Be willing to confront when it is important. "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and up builds itself in love." Ephesians 4:15-16

Deal with people directly; don't complain to others: "If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong. But do it in private, just between the two of you." Matthew 18:15. If someone complains to you about another member, help that person follow this principle.

Here are 3 statements which clarify this::

- (1) If you have a problem with me, come to me (privately).
- (2) If I have a problem with you, I'll come to you (privately).
- (3) If someone else has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me (I'll do the same for you).

Strengthen each other. "[Speak] only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may

benefit those who listen." (Ephesians 4:29) Likewise, the test of true fellowship is to "make the individual free, strong and mature," not "weak and dependent." Bonhoeffer, p.88

Be gentle with one another. "My friends, you are spiritual. So if someone is trapped in sin, you should gently lead that person back to the right path. But watch out, and don't be tempted yourself." Galatians: 6:1

Do not speak ill of others in the fellowship. "Do not grumble about each other or you will be judged, and the judge is right outside the door." James 5:9

Do not judge each other. "Some of you accuse others of doing wrong. But there is no excuse for what you do. When you judge others, you condemn yourselves, because you are guilty of doing the very same things." Romans 2:1

Pray for one another. James 5:16

Confess One's Wrongs to Another. James 5:9. This should be done only in the circle of the offense. If you

have wronged someone go to them, or if someone has wronged you go to them, not to another.

Forgive One Another. "Give and it will be given to you."
Luke 6:38

Follow the Great Commission: **Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV)** ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age."
Amen.

Sign, Date below, fold and keep in your Bible or a place that will help you remember:

Signature: _____

Date: _____