

## **Biblical Principles of Conduct**

At Northwest University we place a great deal of importance on relationships and recognizing the need for responsible behavior. The lifestyle policy, which follows, is our description of the environment we seek to maintain. It is also your invitation to join us in a very special community experience. Should you have any questions about the contents of the lifestyle policy, please contact your Area Coordinator or other members of the Student Development professional staff.

### **Assumptions**

- Loving God is the primary motivation for healthy and holy living.
- The Bible, as our authority, provides the essential principles for personal and community conduct.
- God, through the Holy Spirit, enables the believer to live a holy and healthy life.
- Christ came to restore relationships.

### **Responsibility for Relationships**

For the purpose of our community we have identified the following specific expressions of love as being among the most desirable in our relationships.

#### ***Encouragement***

We expect each member of the community to strive consciously to maintain positive relationships, which support, encourage, and help others.

*We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. (Romans 15:1-2)*

#### ***Bearing with One Another***

We are responsible to come alongside those experiencing grief, discouragement, illness, tragedy or other personal trial. Expressions of bearing one another's burdens include comfort, consolation, and intercession. Because of our humanness, difficulties in relationships can occur. In such cases we are to respond as the Scripture states:

*...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. (Colossians 3:12, 13a)*

#### ***Speaking the Truth in Love***

Speaking the truth to each other in love can strengthen a community such as ours. Problems in relationships and behavior can be resolved constructively by confronting one another in an appropriate spirit. If the welfare of the one being confronted is paramount and if the confronter is acting in love, the process can produce growth.

#### ***Reconciliation, Restoration, and Restitution***

Healing broken relationships is necessary for a healthy community. When relationships have been harmed, regardless of the reason, individuals are expected to reach out to one another, to forgive one another, to restore relationships and to make restitution. II Corinthians 5:18-19 states

*...and He (Christ) gave us the ministry of reconciliation...*

*and He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

Implementing the above expressions of love in relationships requires continual effort and sensitivity to others. Relationships of this quality enrich our lives, honor God, and assist in meeting the goals of the University.