

Responsibility for Attitudes and Behaviors

Biblical Expectations

Scripture teaches that certain attributes are available to individuals through the Holy Spirit. These attributes include *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*. "Against such things there is no law." (*Galatians 5:22-24 NIV*). This fruit of the Spirit is to be sought, encouraged and demonstrated in our relationships. In contrast to encouraging these positive attributes of the heart, Scripture also prohibits certain attitudes which are sometimes difficult to discern, but result in behavior that hinders relationship with God and others. Certain behaviors are even expressly prohibited in Scripture and therefore are to be avoided by members of the University community.

University Expectations

Also in keeping with Biblical expectations, members of the Northwest University community voluntarily commit themselves to following campus community standards of behavior. This commitment results from the conviction that these standards serve the good of the individual as well as the institution. These Lifestyle standards are not set forth as absolutes or as an index of Christian spirituality, but rather as expectations of this community. Because of the importance of trust in and responsibility to one another, violations of these standards are regarded as a serious breach of integrity within the community.

In observance of scriptural admonitions to bring ourselves under the authority of government (Rom 9), members of the Northwest University community are expected to uphold the laws of the local community, the state of Washington and the federal government. Behavior resulting in civil arrest on or off campus is subject to review within the University's judicial procedures.

Building on Biblical and university expectations, Northwest University is committed to cultivate Christian conscientious freedom in the lives of its students. This approach to responsible freedom is characterized by carefully considered, Biblically guided decision-making in all areas of behavior, relationships, entertainment and spiritual formation. It takes into account the impact such decisions have on the community, seeking to respect both the historical church and current cultures. Responsible freedom recognizes that Christians were called to be free not to indulge in sin, but rather to show respect to others and honor God with their life choices (Gal 5:13-14, 1 Cor 6:20, 1 Pet 2:16-17).