

## Membership Class

### Session 3: Church culture and member expectations

Your story, your life, and your gifts all matter here at Reach Church Palos Verdes. As we grow and come together as a church, we can use all of those things for the glory of God. But when many people come in from different backgrounds with different giftings, we all must learn how to build the right culture together. If we ever want to see our vision come to pass, we must build a Godly culture at Reach Church Palos Verdes. As the enemy is trying to infiltrate church culture, Christians should be infiltrating the world's culture to establish heaven's culture. You and I both contribute to our church culture. In this session we will discuss how you can make positive impact here at Reach Church Palos Verdes.

## Culture

Culture is defined as the attitudes and behavior characteristic of a particular social group. We as a church do not follow the pattern of this world, but we create a different culture. Our desire is to establish a healthy church culture at Reach Church Palos Verdes by establishing a strong discipleship program.

## Discipleship

Every disciple is a Christian but not every Christian is a disciple. Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit and the leadership of their church to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20

*19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The Great Commission instructs us to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. But what does it mean to make disciples? And more to the point, what exactly is a disciple?

1. Disciples prioritize Jesus and walk in obedience with the Holy Spirit.
2. Disciples submit to leadership and spiritual authority.
3. Disciples allow accountability and correction.

4. Disciple live for Jesus and bear fruit.
5. Disciples love one another and honor one another.
6. Disciples Have a Godly Reputation
7. Disciples are mindful of the way they speak
8. Disciples live above reproach

*Hebrews 13:17*

*17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

*John 15:5-8*

*8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

*Romans 12:10*

*10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.*

*Ephesians 4:29*

*29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:4*

*4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*

*Galatians 1:10*

*10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.*

As a disciple and member of Reach PV you represent Jesus Christ and His church. Nobody is perfect, we all struggle but these are some guidelines. We are here to help our members reach their full potential in Christ. If you struggle, don't quit! Reach out!

# Reach Church Membership Expectations

Expectations are implemented to help you grow. We wouldn't want to do anything that would cause you to quit or breakdown, but we desire to build you up.

## 1. Serve

Serving is an expectation for our members. We are not spectators but participators. When we serve, we commit to our yes and we show up on time. When we all serve, the burden is heavy on a small team, but we all carry the weight. We serve to bless our brothers and sisters in Christ, to give others and opportunity to experience Jesus and the Church. Serving is a privilege!

*Matthew 23:11*

*11 The greatest among you shall be your servant.*

## 2. Attend

Another expectation of Reach Church Palos Verdes is that you attend church services and discipleship groups *consistently*. Don't just miss whenever you want to, commit. Be a disciple and make yourself accountable. Not just on Sundays but also to church events as we believe this will help you create strong and healthy *spiritual rhythms*.

Consistent attendance to the following:

1. Sunday Service
2. Discipleship group
3. Fellowship events

*Hebrews 10:25*

*25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

## 3. Give

Studies reveal that evangelical Christians give less than 3 percent of their income to the church or any ministry. Giving is an act of worship, expressing our gratitude for God's provision. Just as we worship through song, prayer, and study of the Word, giving is another form of offering that shows our love and devotion to God. Consistent giving enables the church to plan and expand its mission, whether through local outreach, global missions, or community service projects. It helps the church be the hands and feet of Jesus in practical ways. Reach Church Palos Verdes will be able to move at the pace of your giving.

*Philippians 4:19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."*

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## Reach Church Membership Agreement

As a member of Reach Church Palos Verdes:

I have been baptized or will be baptized as soon as possible.

I have completed the Reach PV membership classes.

I commit to being faithful in church attendance and to serve on a ministry team.

I commit to build unity and fellowship with my Reach Church family.

I commit to partnering with the vision of the church financially.

I commit to living empowered by the Holy Spirit.

I commit to the mission, vision, and core values of Reach PV.

I commit to the articles of faith, leadership, and church government.

I commit to being accountable to God and the church leadership and voluntarily join myself to Reach Church Palos Verdes.

I acknowledge that participation in important life events such as baptisms, baby dedications, and marriage ceremonies is reserved exclusively for church members.

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*You have officially finished our Reach Church Membership Class! We are so glad to have you as a new member of our church. We want you to connect with our leadership team and your serve team lead. They will pray with you, and walk you through your next steps. If you're not involved in a discipleship group, get involved today.*