

## **SERVANT LEADER LIFESTYLE STANDARDS – GRACE TO THE NATIONS**

***“...set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12***

Dear Fellow Servants,

As you join the staff and us in serving this congregation in ministry, you enter a new dimension of service to the Lord. You become a spiritual leader. Spiritual leaders reach out as representatives of God to touch people in His Name. The life of our Lord Jesus is a model - the standard - that guides Christian leaders in the choices they make, the things they do (or don't do) and the life they live before those they have been entrusted to lead. Those who serve the congregation of Grace to the Nations must also live as 'examples for the believers'. This principle of Godly leadership through example, must be held with conviction by those who desire the 'noble task' of ministry to the church.

The following guidelines, taken directly from the Scriptural requirements for spiritual leaders, are a commitment we make together, through the grace and strength of our Lord Jesus, to live an exemplary life before the people He has allowed us to serve.

In His service with you,  
Pastors Obed and Rae Orozco

### ***I. Membership***

*Membership to Grace to the Nations is essential when assuming a ministry position within the Body. (exception: EEC employees. See Section 2. EEC- Church Attendance and Tithes) A member recognizes Pastoral authority and leadership in relationship to the church and willingly submits. This partnership of trust will allow opportunity for further service to be released in a member's life, along with Godly counsel, encouragement, and oversight.*

*Hebrews 13:17*

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

#### ***A. Witness***

*A Christian's lifestyle should always express the very character of Jesus as outlined in God's Word. Actions mirror the motivation that a leader has within. How a person behaves in all kinds of situations paints a picture of who that person really is. Special care should be made to avoid 'all appearance of evil' and to 'flee youthful lusts.' No one who practices an unscriptural lifestyle is eligible to be given ministry responsibilities.*

*Participation in an unscriptural lifestyle by a leader will be grounds for immediate removal from that ministry area.*

*Hebrews 13:18*

*We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 2:22; Rom. 1:26-3 1; 1 Samuel 16:1 Timothy 2:9*

## **B. Tithing**

*Tithing is a principle established under both the Old and New Covenants. The tithe is ten percent of the gross increase in earnings. This should be a minimum standard for our giving since we are now under grace and not the law and as such, we give more to God! Alms, missions giving, etc. are a gift given in addition to and above the tithe, as there is willingness. The Scripture very distinctly exhorts us that negligence in the tithe is 'robbing God'! Obviously, leaders must set the example of giving tithes and offerings out of a joyful heart and shut the door to the released curse upon a person and church finances when this important principle is disregarded.*

*Malachi 3:8-10 Matthew 23:23 Matthew 22:17-21*

## **C. Attendance to Services and Church Functions**

*Consistent attendance and involvement in the regular gatherings of Grace to the Nations are vital to participation in any capacity of leadership. We must all be available at gatherings of the people for sharing, encouragement, and prayer with those who are being touched by the Gospel. Furthermore, growing together in worship and in the Word is absolutely crucial to personal growth and a unified effort in expanding the Kingdom. Attendance to regular Sunday services is mandatory to leadership in any area of the ministry. It is obvious that work, family-crisis, vacation, and/or sickness are natural interruptions to regular attendance to church functions. In such an instance, it is important for you to contact your area director to advise them of your situation.*

*Hebrews 10:25*

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

## **II. Use of Influence**

### **A. Soliciting**

*Each servant-leader in Grace to the Nations is considered a minister in this Church Body. To be a minister to the Lord's people is a sacred trust and calling. This calling means that we must lay down our lives for the sheep and not use them in any way for our own personal benefit. Therefore, it is inappropriate for leaders to use their ministry positions of influence in the church for personal profit. A servant to the congregation should never solicit business in a way that puts 'undue influence' on another member or attender. To do so is to misuse the trust that you have been given which often causes*

*hurt, mistrust, and breaking of relationships. Grace to the Nations encourages all of its members and attenders to enter into deep and profitable relationships including business relationships; however, solicitation where profit or financial advantage is involved for the leaders is not acceptable. In cases where members desire to do business with a leader, the leader should only respond and not solicit.*

*1 Peter 5:2-3 1 Timothy 3:8*

## **B. Unity**

*The active pursuit of unity among Grace to the Nations Servant-leaders is critical to the blessing and anointing of the Lord upon our ministry together. We are each a key element and essential to the purpose that God has called us to as much as each instrument is essential to the music an orchestra plays. Satan's primary strategy among us is to create division that distracts us from our vision, limits our effectiveness and causes wounding. It is inappropriate for a servant-leader to use a ministry position as an opportunity to forward any kind of personal agenda or individual ministry endeavor. Leadership is a sacred trust given for the purpose of teaming with Pastor John and the ministry staff to forward the vision of Jesus Christ for the people of Grace to the Nations. It is inexcusable for a leader to use a position of influence to encourage disharmony, division, or factions of any kind. When you become a leader at Grace to the Nations, you no longer have the seeming luxury of entering into gossip, quarrels, hostilities, and contention which are caused by pride, anger, and selfish ambition. Any disagreements that may arise between leaders are to be settled through a series of private meetings. If the dispute cannot be resolved, the matter is to be taken to the Minister overseeing that leader's area of service. Should a disagreement be of such consequence that a leader feels unable to submit to the decision of the overseeing Minister, that leader must resign that leadership position. Then, they must carefully withdraw contact from the Grace to the Nations congregation in such a manner that the leaving does not cause hurt and confusion among other innocent people within the congregation. We must take up the very attitude and posture of Christ, which was one of humility and servant hood, interacting with each other with great patience and compassion, and laying our own lives and ambitions down for the good of the Church.*

*Philippians 2:1-11 Psalm 133 1 Corinthians 1:10 Ephesians 4:3 1 Peter 3:8 Proverbs 17:14 Proverbs 10:3 Proverbs 17:19 2 Timothy 2:24*

## **C. Sexuality**

*Scripture clearly defines sexual activity as a joyful and wholesome expression of love reserved solely for the covenant relationship of marriage between a man and a woman. Although our culture blatantly encourages contrary behavior to this scriptural guideline, it is a fact that deviation from this Biblical standard causes deep inner confusion and spiritual oppression. Premarital and extramarital sexual relations are strongly warned against in the Bible because of the devastating effects which occur not only to those directly participating in the acts but to those in relationship with them. Even more devastating to innocent people is participation in sexual deviations such as homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, and violent and degrading sexual activity. All of these activities are totally inappropriate to a believer, and especially to anyone who is a*

*minister within the congregation. Those individuals who have previous lifestyles which indulged in sexually deviant behavior that was violent or involved minors will not be allowed to minister in areas that include children or youth. This policy is for the protection of our precious little ones, the confidence of their parents and to guard those in ministry from accusation. Beyond this, a leader must take special caution to guard against the inroads of the thoughts, attitudes, and actions of our culture's philosophy into our own lives. Servant-leaders at Grace to the Nations have the challenge of presenting the truth and hope of the Gospel to a society that has been twisted and wounded by these philosophies which justify self-centered use of sexuality.*

*Colossians 3:51*

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust evil desires and greed, which is idolatry*

*Romans 1:24, 26, 27*

*Therefore, God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity the degrading of their bodies with one another. God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.*

### **III. Entertainment**

#### **A. Music**

*The power of music is that it affects the whole man - spirit, soul, and body. God created music as a vehicle for worship. Lyrics that incite lust, greed, rage, violence, and the philosophies of this world have no place in our lives when we become servants of the Lord.*

#### **B. Visual Entertainment**

*Special attention should be given to movies, TV, plays, theater, and concerts in regard to the lifestyle that is advocated. We must guard our minds from the propaganda of sinful living. Caution must be taken toward the visual and language content, avoiding those presentations that could be offensive, whether it is to you personally, or to those who may not understand your participation in them.*

#### **C. Gambling**

*The love of money is the source of great evil within our country and challenges the very Lordship of Christ within each of our lives. Gambling as a whole can be a hook of greed that embeds itself within a person's heart and mind. The very atmosphere in which most gambling is done in should provoke careful consideration of its impact upon us. Not only does gambling incite greed, it encourages a recklessness with the very resources that God Himself has given to us to be stewards over. Like with alcohol and illegal narcotics, gambling can become addictive and has destroyed many lives homes.*

*Although there is no specific Scriptural text which admonishes against gambling, the heart of Scripture challenges us to resist greed and carefully invest our finances in productive ways.*

*Romans 12:21*

*Do not conform and longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is*

*Therefore, do not be partners with them for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deed of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. Ephesians 5: 7-11 Ephesians 5:3-5, Psalms 101: 3-4*

#### *D. Drinking, Smoking, and Use of Drugs*

*Drinking of alcoholic beverages or use of tobacco products among servant-leaders at Grace to the Nations is discouraged because they are a source of bondage often causing 'stumbling' for others. Though drinking and smoking are obviously not considered 'sin', use of these substances can cause confusion and discouragement and open the door of our lives to attack from Satan for those who have difficulties with addiction to those substances. Even our secular system recognizes their destructive effects on the body and discourages their use. Those who take a glass of wine with their meals or smoke the occasional cigar are encouraged to be very thoughtful of whom they are with and of their surroundings so not to offend or be a source of struggle for others.*

*Use of addictive and/or illegal drugs or narcotics is absolutely not acceptable for someone who is called to live under the influence of the Holy Spirit! No one that is currently in bondage to drug use can lead others in the freedom of the Gospel. Until that addiction has been broken, they may not participate in ministry leadership.*

*Ephesians 5:18*

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery, instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

*1 Corinthians 6: 19-20*

*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.*

#### *E. Dancing*

*The beauty and joy of dancing in spiritual expression of worship or in wholesome choreographic presentations are a sharp contrast to the sensual and lustful movements our society encourages. A person given to ministry at Grace to the Nations must separate themselves from the arena where body and emotions yield to the passion and lusts of this world. Unfortunately, there are few arenas where wholesome, joyous family oriented dancing can have expression. Patronizing bars and dance halls that encourage lewd behavior and prolonged physical contact between unmarried*

*individuals is unseemly for spiritual leaders. Leaders must set a clear example in life choices for others to follow; choosing holy abandonment in joyful worship and praise over sensuality.*

*1 Peter 4:3*

*For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.*

*Jeremiah 31: 13*

*Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.*

*Colossians 3:5*

#### *F. Platform Attire and Etiquette*

*Ministers' attire should always reflect the holiness and purity of God's Spirit living in us, taking care not to conform to the worldliness of our present generation, but reflecting the beauty of a transformed life. Provocative clothing that is revealing or suggestive and clothing that is prohibitive to ministry and expression in worship is inappropriate. In the Tabernacle, priests and Levites were required to wear specific uniforms as they ministered before the Lord. This enhanced the Levites understanding of their high calling before God, reminding them of their need for purity. Additionally, it fosters a sense of unity and encourages the respect of the people. Grace To the Nations does not require leadership to wear specific uniforms such as choir robes, suits, jackets or special outfits; but, careful selection of ministry clothing is expected because of your visibility, ministry position and calling to purity.*

*Specifically, dress shirts, collared shirts, or ties and slacks are appropriate for men for Sunday morning ministry. Women are asked to wear non-revealing blouses and loose fitting slacks or skirts and dresses to the knee. On Sunday evenings and weeknight services, the attire is much more casual, allowing for nice slacks and shirts for either men or women. Please keep in mind that what is comfortable for you may seem inappropriate for others. If there is ever a question about a staff member's attire, it will be addressed on a personal level by the Senior Pastor.*

*1 Peter 3: 3-4*

*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self—the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

*Also as ministers, our goal is to bring glory to the Lord and reveal who he is. Along with appropriate attire, we want to make sure that our actions while on the platform do not distract from what the Spirit is doing during a service. We want to let God increase and let ourselves decrease*

## G. Speech

*A believer's speech is a testimony of the workings of Christ's grace and righteousness within the heart. Inappropriate humor, vulgar or sexually suggestive slang or any kind of profanity is improper for spiritual leaders, whose words should be a source of exhortation and encouragement, ministering Jesus' life to His people.*

*Psalm 19:14*

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord.*

*Colossians 3: 8-9*

*But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*

## **GRACE TO THE NATIONS MINISTRY COVENANT**

Dear Pastor's and staff:

I recognize these lifestyle standards as Biblical guidelines and accept them as part of my responsibility as a minister and leader at Grace to the Nations. I willingly make a covenant with my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and with my co-laborers at Grace to the Nations, to uphold these principles, putting my faith and trust in God's grace, as He strengthens me in heart, word, and actions through His Holy Spirit.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are in agreement with all the standards addressed, and wish to covenant with us in keeping them as part of your leadership lifestyle, please sign and return to a pastor or ministry leader.)