

Relational Covenant of Grace Community Covenant Church

How will we behave and live together, especially when we don't understand or agree with each other?

The people of Grace Community Covenant Church will demonstrate:

Gratitude with humility

We are grateful for the blessing of church and community. With contrite hearts we acknowledge that we have fallen short of the desires of the Lord for our church. We acknowledge our shortcomings and seek to follow His direction.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! ~ Philippians 2:3-8

Relationships that are God-honoring

We **honor** and **affirm** each other as people created in God's image; we build each other up, assume the best of each other, and seek to see each other through God's eyes.

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God—even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. ~ 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Always gentle, loving, and open communication

We **communicate** with each other by listening and speaking openly, honestly, and respectfully. In conflict we go directly to the person we disagree with and accept disagreement as normal and natural.

For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ~ 1 Peter 3:10-17

Consideration and respect

We **seek** and extend **grace** and **forgiveness** in relationship with each other.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ~ Colossians 3:13

Empathy driven unity

We love, care, and pray for each other sacrificially in the same way Christ loved us.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." ~ John 13:34-35