

Cornerstone Student Ministries Dress Code, Conduct, and Relational Guidelines

As followers of Christ, our lives belong to Him. This includes not only our words and actions, but also the way we present ourselves. Scripture teaches that true beauty and godliness begin in the heart and are displayed through humility, purity, self-control, and good works (1 Peter 3:3–4; 1 Timothy 2:9–10; 1 Timothy 4:12).

Our dress and appearance should therefore reflect a desire to honor the Lord, respect others, and avoid seeking inappropriate attention. Rather than simply asking, “What am I allowed to wear?” we want students to think biblically about whether their clothing and appearance are respectable, appropriate, prudent, and consistent with a life of purity. Scripture repeatedly calls believers to conduct themselves with dignity, self-control, and purity (1 Timothy 3:2, 8; 4:12).

Because appropriate clothing can vary depending on the setting and activity, the following dress guidelines are intended to help us establish clear and consistent expectations for Youth Group, camps, trips, and other Student Ministries activities. Our goal is not to create an exhaustive list of rules, but to help students learn to make wise choices that reflect their commitment to Christ and consideration for others.

Guidelines For Young Women

- **Shirts/Tops:** Please make sure undergarments are not visible through sleeve holes or through the fabric of your shirt. Tops should adequately cover the chest, back, and midriff and should not be excessively tight, low-cut, backless, or cropped. Please also consider how a shirt fits when bending over, sitting down, or raising your arms. If wearing a racerback shirt, please wear a racerback bra. Standard sports bra straps showing at the shoulder are acceptable.
- **Shorts and Skirts:** Shorts and skirts should be approximately mid-thigh length or longer. Please also consider the length and coverage when sitting down, bending over, or participating in activities.
- **Pants and Leggings:** Please wear jeans, appropriate sweatpants, or other loose-fitting pants. Please do not wear yoga pants or form-fitting leggings.
- **Swimwear:** One-piece bathing suits or appropriately covering tankinis are acceptable.
- **Sheer Clothing:** Clothing should not be see-through or sheer in a way that reveals undergarments or excessive skin.
- **Sleepwear and Common Areas:** Since we will be sharing common spaces, please be appropriately dressed whenever you are outside your room. Pajamas worn in common areas should follow the same general standards as other clothing.
- **Words and Images:** Clothing should not display suggestive, profane, drug or alcohol related, or otherwise inappropriate words or images.
- **Questions:** If you are unsure whether something is appropriate or honoring to the Lord, please ask a female leader.

Guidelines For Young Men

- **Shirts/Tops:** Please wear a shirt whenever you are outside your room, except when swimming or participating in an activity where a leader has indicated otherwise. Shirts should adequately cover the chest, back, and midriff and should not be excessively tight or revealing. Please do not wear muscle tanks or shirts with excessively large arm openings.
- **Shorts:** Please wear shorts that are approximately knee length. Please also consider the length and coverage when sitting down, bending over, or participating in activities.
- **Pants:** Please wear jeans, appropriate sweatpants, or other properly fitting pants. Pants and shorts should be worn securely around the waist so that undergarments are not visible.
- **Swimwear:** Please wear appropriate swim trunks or swim shorts. Speedos or other revealing swimwear are not appropriate. Shirts should be worn when you are no longer swimming or participating in water activities.

- **Sleepwear and Common Areas:** Since we will be sharing common spaces, please be appropriately dressed whenever you are outside your room. Pajamas worn in common areas should follow the same general standards as other clothing.
- **Words and Images:** Clothing should not display suggestive, profane, drug or alcohol related, or otherwise inappropriate words or images.
- **Questions:** If you are unsure whether something is appropriate or honoring to the Lord, please ask a male leader.

Above all, our desire is that each student would pursue Christ from the heart and seek to honor Him in every area of life. “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Conduct and Relational Guidelines

Because we desire every student to honor Christ, love others, pursue purity, and participate in Student Ministries in a way that strengthens the whole group, students are expected to conduct themselves with wisdom, modesty, self-control, and respect toward one another.

Our goal is not legalism or simply outward rule-keeping, but conduct that flows from a heart submitted to Christ and shaped by Scripture. Students are called to flee youthful lusts, pursue righteousness, love one another with purity, and avoid behavior that could tempt others, distract from worship, or create confusion in relationships.

Relevant Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:22; Romans 13:13–14; 1 Corinthians 6:18–20; Ephesians 4:29; Ephesians 5:3–4; Philippians 2:3–4; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8.

1. Public Displays of Affection

Students are expected to avoid public displays of affection during Student Ministries. This includes, but is not limited to, prolonged hugging, cuddling, sitting on laps, leaning on one another in a romantic or physically affectionate way, holding hands, flirtatious physical contact, playful touching that draws attention to a relationship, or any behavior that suggests romantic attachment.

Brief, appropriate, and non-romantic greetings are allowed, but students should avoid physical contact that could reasonably be perceived as romantic, distracting, possessive, or unwise.

Students should remember that their bodies belong to the Lord and that physical affection is not morally neutral. Our desire is to help students honor Christ, guard one another’s purity, and avoid cultivating marriage-like intimacy before the covenant commitment of marriage.

2. Relational and Relationship Guidelines

Students should not use Student Ministries as an opportunity to pursue romantic relationships, pair off privately, or cultivate exclusive attachment with someone of the opposite gender.

Student Ministries is intended to be a time of worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and spiritual growth with the whole group.

Students are expected to avoid behavior such as:

- Pairing off alone or separating from the group.
- Spending excessive one-on-one time with someone of the opposite gender.
- Creating romantic pressure, possessiveness, jealousy, or exclusivity.
- Flirtatious speech, teasing, or physical interaction.
- Sharing deeply personal, emotional, or spiritually sensitive matters in a private or romanticized context.

- Using Student Ministries to initiate, intensify, or define a dating relationship.

We want students to understand that biblical marriage involves covenantal oneness, including relational, emotional, spiritual, and physical intimacy. Because that kind of oneness belongs within the covenant of marriage, students should be careful not to cultivate the privileges or patterns of marital intimacy before marriage.

3. Appropriate and Inappropriate Topics of Conversation

Students are expected to speak in a way that honors Christ, builds others up, and reflects purity, wisdom, and self-control.

Appropriate conversation includes speech that is encouraging, truthful, gracious, respectful, spiritually beneficial, and fitting for the setting of Student Ministries.

Students should avoid conversations that include:

- Suggestive joking, innuendo, or crude speech.
- Boasting about or promoting alcohol, drunkenness, vaping, drugs, partying, or other sinful behavior.
- Romantic or flirtatious conversations that stir up desire or create relational confusion.
- Gossip, slander, mocking, or tearing others down.
- Disrespectful speech toward parents, leaders, churches, or other students.
- Profanity, vulgarity, or foolish talk.
- Conversations that normalize, excuse, or celebrate sin.

Scripture calls believers to put away corrupting speech and instead speak words that build others up according to the need of the moment. Students should use their words to encourage holiness, not to tempt others, distract others, or draw attention to sin.

Relevant Scriptures: Ephesians 4:29; Ephesians 5:3–4; Colossians 3:8; Colossians 4:6; Proverbs 10:19; Proverbs 15:1–2; James 3:5–10.

4. Respectful Communication and Interaction

Students are expected to treat one another with honor, kindness, humility, and respect. This includes both verbal and nonverbal communication.

Students should avoid conduct such as:

- Staring, hovering, or making others feel uncomfortable.
- Pressuring someone for physical affection, attention, or private conversation.
- Making repeated attempts to interact with someone who is not showing interest.
- Teasing, joking, or commenting in ways that embarrass, shame, or single someone out.
- Using sarcasm, insults, or comments in ways that dishonor others.
- Ignoring the correction or instruction of leaders.

Students should seek to interact with one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, with purity, sincerity, and love. Young men should treat young women as sisters in all purity, and young women should treat young men as brothers in all purity.

Relevant Scriptures: 1 Timothy 5:1–2; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3–4; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 John 3:18.

5. Leader Oversight and Correction

Leaders are responsible to shepherd students during Student Ministries and may redirect conversations, separate students, correct behavior, or involve parents when needed.

If a leader addresses a student's conduct, the student is expected to receive correction respectfully and respond with humility. Repeated disregard for Student Ministries expectations may result in further follow-up with parents and church leadership.

Our desire in correction is not embarrassment or punishment, but loving shepherding. We want to help students grow in wisdom, purity, self-control, love for others, and submission to Christ.

Relevant Scriptures: Hebrews 13:17; Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 15:31–32; Galatians 6:1; Colossians 1:28.

6. Parent Partnership

Parents are the primary individuals entrusted by God with the responsibility of discipling their children. When concerns arise regarding relational conduct, inappropriate conversation, public displays of affection, disrespect, or other behavioral issues, ministry leaders may follow up with parents in order to communicate clearly, seek wisdom, and provide important information that will help parents faithfully disciple their children at home.

Our goal is to work together with parents to help students honor Christ in their hearts, words, relationships, and conduct.

Relevant Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:1–4.