LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT LIFE

I am confident in God’s leading and desire to see each of His children know His perfect will for their future. We believe that every student at The Master’s College is experiencing God’s perfect will for them, and that their desire is to become more like the Master. We have a very intentional spiritual agenda here that views every area of life as spiritual. This includes your academic, ministry, and social activities, as well as, your relationships. A biblical understanding of life reveals that God is to be worshiped in all things and expects the believer to be a good steward of all resources and opportunities He provides.

We also believe that every student at the College should recognize God’s sovereign plan to raise up a generation of godly leaders to enable His church to accomplish His mission, and they will be recognized as one who was sent by God to be equipped for effective spiritual leadership.

The Student Life Department has a strong philosophy of leadership development which affects how we implement housing, discipleship opportunities, networking with local churches, serving in our community, and evangelizing the lost. These are our Lord’s passions and we believe those who lead in His kingdom must learn how to demonstrate these passions in the midst of life’s demands. The process of leadership development is one that requires great commitment and sacrifice. Students who take full advantage of the academic courses and Student Life programs will be challenged and encouraged in achieving this goal.

The curriculum at Master’s is a whole life curriculum. Our Lord instructed us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. The picture is one of the entirety of man being equipped and used to glorify God.

We attempt to recognize the clear biblical mandates that Christians should gladly obey. But we do not suggest that you are spiritual if you do these things in a spirit of legalism. External behavior never proves spiritual maturity. Our desire is to see the heart shaped after that of Christ’s. When the heart is correct, it will produce godly acts. It is then that you will discover what it really means to be a student of the Master.

We do not promise to be a sinless campus. We only claim the promise of Philippians 1:6, “He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it...” May God become more real to you in every area as you seek Him in the days ahead. We will commit our strength to encouraging you in this exciting process.

Because our God loves us,

Joe Keller
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

**GENERAL INFORMATION**
- Table of Contents ........................................... 3
- Contact Information ........................................ 4
- Department Extension List ................................ 5

**THE STUDENT LIFE DEPARTMENT**
- The Distinctives ................................................... 6
- Diveately .......................................................... 7
- Heart Transformation ........................................... 8
- Sanctifying Relationships ..................................... 9
- Gospel Witness .................................................. 10
- Community Covenant .......................................... 13
- Student Life Programs ........................................ 15
- Campus Ministries ............................................. 15
- Chapel ............................................................. 15
  - The Truth & Life Conference ............................... 15
  - SLS .................................................................. 16
- First-Year Experience ......................................... 16
- Outreach Week .................................................... 16
- Day of Prayer ..................................................... 16
- Community Day ................................................... 16
- Student Activities .............................................. 17
  - Campus Events ................................................ 17
  - Dorm Events .................................................... 17
  - Student Societies ............................................. 17
  - Intramurals and Fitness Center ............................. 17
- Global Outreach .................................................. 17
- Global Outreach Teams ........................................ 17
- Global Mobilization Week .................................... 18
- Missionary in Residence ...................................... 18
- Student Advancement Programs ............................ 18
- Intl Student Advancement ..................................... 18
- Multi-Cultural Student Advancement ..................... 18
- Military Student Advancement ............................... 18
- Intercollegiate Athletics ...................................... 19
- Resident Life ..................................................... 19
  - On-Campus Residence ....................................... 19
    - Resident Director (RD) .................................... 19
    - Resident Assistant (RA) .................................. 19
    - Assistant Resident Assistant (ARA) ................... 19
  - Commuter Students .......................................... 20

**STUDENT STANDARD OF CONDUCT**
- Biblical Mandates ............................................. 21
- Examples of Walking in the Spirit .......................... 22
- Loving One Another ............................................ 22
- Submission to Authority ...................................... 22
- Stewardship ...................................................... 22
- Modesty ................................................................ 22
- Examples of Walking in the Flesh .......................... 22
  - Anger .................................................................. 22
  - Jealousy ............................................................ 22
  - Deception .......................................................... 22
  - Unwholesome Speech ......................................... 23
  - Stealing ............................................................. 23
  - Lust .................................................................... 23
  - Sexual Immorality .............................................. 23
- Substance Abuse .................................................. 23
- College Policies .................................................. 23
- General Policies .................................................. 24
- Appearance and Dress Code .................................. 24
- Chapel and Class Dress ........................................ 24
- Daily Dress .......................................................... 25
- Recreational Dress .............................................. 25
- Formal Dress ....................................................... 25
- General Appearance ............................................ 26
- Church ............................................................... 26
- Chapel ............................................................... 26
- Truth & Life Conference ....................................... 27
- Housing Assignment Policies ............................... 27
  - On-Campus Residence ....................................... 28
  - Extended Housing ............................................. 28
  - Room Assignments ............................................ 28
  - Off-Campus Housing ......................................... 28
- Residence Hall Policies ....................................... 28
- Guidelines and Procedures ................................... 28
- General Residence Hall Policies ............................ 29
- Residence Hall Specific Rules ............................... 29
- Residence Hall/Wing Meetings ............................. 29
- Quiet Hours ....................................................... 29
- Residence Hall Activities ..................................... 29
- Laundry Facilities ............................................... 29
- Lounges ............................................................. 29
- Water and Water Balloons .................................... 29
- Room and Car Security ....................................... 29
- Bicycles .............................................................. 29
- Pets and Animals ................................................ 29
- Earthquake and Fire Procedure ............................. 30
- Room Policies ..................................................... 30
  - Bedding and Linens .......................................... 30
- Kitchen Equipment ............................................. 30
- Fire Code Regulations ......................................... 30
- Room Care and Room Checks ............................... 30
- Room Check-Out at Mid-Semester ......................... 31
- Room Check-Out at End of a Semester ..................... 31
- Television .......................................................... 31
- Projectors ........................................................... 31
- Room Keys .......................................................... 31
- Entering Students' Rooms ..................................... 31
- Guests and Visitors ............................................. 31
  - Guests .............................................................. 31
  - Guests from another Residence Hall/Commuters ....... 32
- Members of the Opposite Sex ................................ 32
- Solicitation ........................................................ 32
- Break Housing and Early Arrival .......................... 32
  - Break Housing Policy ........................................ 32
  - Early Arrival Procedure ..................................... 33
- Closed Campus Policy ......................................... 33
- Pranks and Appropriate Activity ............................ 33
- Extended Housing .............................................. 33
- Off Campus Residence Policies ............................. 34

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**
- Statement on Submission ..................................... 35
- Discrimination Policies and Grievances .................. 35
  - General Statement ........................................... 35
  - HIV and AIDS .................................................. 36
- Single Mothers .................................................... 36
- Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Laws ...... 36
  - Sexual Harassment ............................................ 36
  - Hazing. Initiation Activities ............................... 36
  - Pranks .............................................................. 37
  - California Fire Code ......................................... 37
  - Suicide ............................................................ 38
- Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages ... 38
- Counseling ........................................................ 38
- Missing Resident Policy ........................................ 38

**ACADEMIC POLICY**
- Academic Dishonesty ......................................... 40
- Teaching Content Which May Contain Potentially Objectionable Elements ......................... 40

**DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM**
- Church/Chapel Probation ..................................... 41
- Fines .................................................................. 41
- Work Details ...................................................... 41
- Academic Probation ............................................ 41
- Student Probation ............................................... 42
- Social Probation ................................................ 42
- Suspension ........................................................ 42
- Reapplication Status .......................................... 42
- Dismissal ........................................................... 42
- Council on Student Conduct .................................. 43
- Student Appeals Committee ................................. 43

**APPENDICES**
- Appendix 1: Discernment in Christian Liberty ........ 44
- Appendix 2: Modesty and the Christian Woman ........ 51
- Appendix 3: Restoration ....................................... 54
- Appendix 4: Media Ethics Policy Statement ............. 57
- Appendix 5: Campus Security Vehicle Codes .......... 57
CONTACT INFORMATION

The Master’s College Website
For the most current information regarding The Master’s College, please access our website at www.masters.edu.

Written Correspondence
When corresponding with a particular individual or department, please address correspondence as follows:

   Individual’s and/or Department’s
   Name
   Box Number #  
   The Master’s College
   21726 Placerita Canyon Road Santa
   Clarita, CA 91321-1200

E-Mail Correspondence
When e-mailing students, the convention is last name followed by first initial and middle initial @mail.masters.edu. For example, if the student’s name is Jane Rachel Doe, her e-mail address will be doejr@mail.masters.edu.

When e-mailing a faculty or staff member, our standard e-mail address is the first initial of the first name followed by full last name @masters.edu. For example, John Doe could be e-mailed using the following address: jdoe@masters.edu.

Because of duplicates, there are some exceptions. Student, faculty, and staff e-mail addresses can be verified by e-mailing postmaster@masters.edu.

Telephone and Fax Correspondence
We welcome every opportunity to speak with you personally. Always feel free to call us.
661.259.3540        Fax 661.362.2695

You may request an individual and/or department by name or by extension number. You may also leave messages before or after regular office hours using our automated voice messaging system from a touch-tone phone.

(In an effort to maintain students’ privacy in harmony with Federal Laws, none of the offices are permitted to give out students’ contact information to any party requesting such information.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT NAME</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
<th>EXT.</th>
<th>FAX (661)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Affairs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:academicaffairs@masters.edu">academicaffairs@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2227</td>
<td>362.2698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td></td>
<td>2686</td>
<td>362.2711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admissions@masters.edu">admissions@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2601</td>
<td>288.1037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Relations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@masters.edu">alumni@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2203</td>
<td>362.2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASB</td>
<td><a href="mailto:asb@masters.edu">asb@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2834</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td><a href="mailto:athletics@masters.edu">athletics@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2761</td>
<td>362.2697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Counseling</td>
<td><a href="mailto:biblicalcounseling@masters.edu">biblicalcounseling@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2641</td>
<td>362.2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Studies</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bible@masters.edu">bible@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2621</td>
<td>362.2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological &amp; Physical Sciences</td>
<td><a href="mailto:biologicalsciences@masters.edu">biologicalsciences@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2702</td>
<td>362.2724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bookstore@masters.edu">bookstore@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2862</td>
<td>362.2715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td><a href="mailto:busadmin@masters.edu">busadmin@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2702</td>
<td>362.2684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Activities</td>
<td></td>
<td>2834</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Ministries</td>
<td><a href="mailto:campusministries@masters.edu">campusministries@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2834</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Security</td>
<td><a href="mailto:campussecurity@masters.edu">campussecurity@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2500</td>
<td>362.2689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:careerservices@masters.edu">careerservices@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2267</td>
<td>362.2668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFO/Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>2210</td>
<td>362.2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapel Media</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chapelmedia@masters.edu">chapelmedia@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>3311</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td><a href="mailto:communications@masters.edu">communications@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>362.2667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer &amp; Information Sciences</td>
<td><a href="mailto:computerscience@masters.edu">computerscience@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2218</td>
<td>362.2681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Services</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helpdesk@masters.edu">helpdesk@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2876</td>
<td>362.2664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deanoffice@masters.edu">deanoffice@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2833</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree Completion Program</td>
<td><a href="mailto:degreecompletion@masters.edu">degreecompletion@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2672</td>
<td>362.2716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td><a href="mailto:development@masters.edu">development@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2210</td>
<td>362.2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Services Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:humansources@masters.edu">humansources@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2843</td>
<td>362.2717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td><a href="mailto:english@masters.edu">english@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2286</td>
<td>362.2670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td><a href="mailto:financialaid@masters.edu">financialaid@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2590</td>
<td>362.2693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>3940</td>
<td>362.2665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Service</td>
<td><a href="mailto:foodservice@masters.edu">foodservice@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2856</td>
<td>362.2714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nurse@masters.edu">nurse@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>3765</td>
<td>362.2663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Economics</td>
<td><a href="mailto:homeec@masters.edu">homeec@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>3101</td>
<td>362.2699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td><a href="mailto:humansources@masters.edu">humansources@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2843</td>
<td>362.2717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBEX</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ibexoffice@masters.edu">ibexoffice@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2616</td>
<td>362.2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Students</td>
<td><a href="mailto:iso@masters.edu">iso@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2249</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td><a href="mailto:library@masters.edu">library@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2278</td>
<td>362.2719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MABC</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mabc@masters.edu">mabc@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2644</td>
<td>362.2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MABC SIP</td>
<td></td>
<td>2652</td>
<td>362.2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>2349</td>
<td>362.2715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MasterNET Help Desk</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helpdesk@masters.edu">helpdesk@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2876</td>
<td>362.2664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td>2702</td>
<td>253.4080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td><a href="mailto:music@masters.edu">music@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2256</td>
<td>253.0783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tmccurrent@masters.edu">tmccurrent@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2222</td>
<td>362.2694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notebook Support</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helpdesk@masters.edu">helpdesk@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>3485</td>
<td>362.2664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nurse@masters.edu">nurse@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2662</td>
<td>362.2663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>2762</td>
<td>254.6129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Operations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:plantops@masters.edu">plantops@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2794</td>
<td>362.2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Studies / History</td>
<td></td>
<td>2286</td>
<td>362.2670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President’s Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:presidentsoffice@masters.edu">presidentsoffice@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2221</td>
<td>362.2723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provost’s Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:provostoffice@masters.edu">provostoffice@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2222</td>
<td>362.2694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@masters.edu">registrar@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2813</td>
<td>362.2722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Information</td>
<td></td>
<td>2773</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Employment</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studentemp@masters.edu">studentemp@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2678</td>
<td>362.2692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Finance Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:accountinfo@masters.edu">accountinfo@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>3227</td>
<td>362.2692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Life</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studentlife@masters.edu">studentlife@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2821</td>
<td>362.2695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Education</td>
<td><a href="mailto:teacherseduc@masters.edu">teacherseduc@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2233</td>
<td>362.2684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@masters.edu">registrar@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2810</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:veterans@masters.edu">veterans@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2812</td>
<td>362.2722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:webmaster@masters.edu">webmaster@masters.edu</a></td>
<td>2219</td>
<td>362.2681</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At Master’s we believe in the education of the whole student. This takes place inside and outside the classroom. We want to educate the heart as well as the mind. As a complement to the work of the faculty, the Student Life Department exists to facilitate the education of the heart outside of the classroom. We desire to maintain an atmosphere that will be conducive to the development of spiritual maturity and discernment. Because each student who comes to The Master’s College professes faith in Jesus Christ, we expect students to grow in that faith through the work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that our commitment to our foundational Distinctives found in God’s Word helps us minister to students as they grow in that relationship.

THE DISTINCTIVES

The undergraduate experience encompasses the whole person, developing biblical wisdom that is applied to every academic discipline and detail of life. Christian higher education far exceeds the acquisition of intellectual knowledge. A distinctive Christian higher education promotes comprehensive Christian life within a believing community to harmonize what a student is learning inside the classroom to what the student lives outside the classroom.

The Master's College emphasizes four fundamental biblical principles that promote a student's comprehensive spiritual development. These “Distinctives” flow out of the college's mission statement and influence all our strategies and programs. The “Distinctives” are not an exhaustive list of dynamics relating to the Christian life, rather they are select, interrelated, principles, which compose the essential philosophy of how The Master's College encourages students to live and develop distinctively Christian lives during their college years and beyond. These “Distinctives” are as follows:

- Divine Authority
- Heart Transformation
- Sanctifying Relationships
- Gospel Witness

These Distinctives are individually defined by several interrelated biblical principles. The collective result is a framework for developing a distinctively Christian life. A review of these biblical truths will inform how the policies and procedures of Student Life are shaped.
DIVINE AUTHORITY

Every expression and pursuit of the Christian life (renewing of the mind, prayer, worship, sanctification, evangelism, etc.) is empowered and experienced from Him, to Him, and through Him. We view spiritual development under the direct oversight of Divine authority. The Distinctive of DIVINE AUTHORITY is defined by the interrelated biblical principles of SOVEREIGN LORDSHIP, SUFFICIENT WORD, and SUBMISSIVE DEPENDANCY.

- **SOVEREIGN LORDSHIP**: Christ is sovereign Lord over all creation and reigns as the authoritative head of the church. As the mediator of the New Covenant, His comprehensive rule is the powerful authority by which a distinctive Christian life is experienced and directed.
Questions for Reflection:
What does it truly mean to submit to the Lordship of Christ on a daily basis?
Reflect upon who you are most accountable to, and relate that to your accountability to God. Is Christ the ultimate authority in your life?

Further Study:
*Passages relating SOVEREIGN LORDSHIP with SUFFICIENT WORD: Isaiah 66:2, John 8:31, Colossians 3:15-17*

- **SUFFICIENT WORD:** Scripture is the Word of God to man and is sufficient to address everything pertaining to life and godliness without error or equal. It stands as the authoritative standard by which truth and error are both revealed and understood. Scripture alone is the authoritative revelation by which a distinctive Christian life is guided. Psalm 19:7-11; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3-11

  Questions for Reflection:
  How does the sufficiency of Scripture shape your decision making on a daily basis?
  How do the scriptures relate to being discerning and wise?
  Are you governed increasingly by God’s Word?

  Further Study:
  *Passages relating SUFFICIENT WORD with SUBMISSIVE DEPENDENCY: John 17:17, Ephesians 6:17-18, Hebrews 4:11-16*

- **SUBMISSIVE DEPENDENCY:** Development of the whole student in community is a supernatural experience in the human condition. The Christian life is exclusively dependent upon the empowering grace of God to realize the submissive obedience required by divine authority. John 14:16-17; Galatians 2:20-21; Titus 2:11-14

  Questions for Reflection:
  What are some practical ways that you can depend upon the grace of God while striving for loving obedience to His Word?
  What does your prayer life look like?
  How do you cultivate a life that is “walking in the Spirit”?

  Further Study:

**HEART TRANSFORMATION**

A superficial change in external behavior is not the authenticating mark of a distinctive Christian life. The Master's College desires to see genuine change in the student’s life that is sustainably rooted in the transformation of his or her intellect, affections, and resolve. By focusing on what the Bible describes as the heart, we can confidently exhort and encourage a student's comprehensive development without reverting to legalistic methodologies. The Distinctive of HEART TRANSFORMATION is defined by the interrelated biblical principles of LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP, POSTURE OF REPENTANCE, and CONTINUUM OF LOVE.
LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP: Our priorities and actions flow out of a heart of worship. Within the fellowship of believers, spiritual development is realized as the hearts of the people unite in worshiping the true God over counterfeit ones. This commitment views everything in life as an opportunity to glorify the Lord and find satisfaction in Him. I Corinthians 10:31; John 4:21-24; Deuteronomy 6:5

Questions for Reflection:
Where do acts of worship begin?
Everything we do either worships God or something that is not God; what keeps your heart aware and active in pursuing all things as an act of worship that is pleasing to God?
What would you say to someone who believed that worship was only for local church services?

Further Study:

POSTURE OF REPENTANCE: Though our hearts are transformed at the moment of regeneration, the believer continues to grow in godliness through the process of progressive sanctification. The sanctification process includes a posture of repentance—turning away from sinful desires and actions and refocusing our affections on the one true God. The fruit of sanctification is seen in visible acts of obedience that flow from a heart that loves the Lord. II Corinthians 7:9-11; Psalm 51; I John 1:9-2:6

Questions for Reflection:
Do you grieve over your sin? Are you quick to repent?
Would you characterize yourself as a teachable person?
How you can cultivate a posture of repentance in your life?

Further Study:

CONTINUUM OF LOVE: There is a direct connection between a heart of love and the distinctive Christian life. Love is the greatest commandment and the foundational heart motivation by which believers can comprehend and experience all that is revealed in Scripture. I Corinthians 13:1-3; Matthew 22:34-40; I John 4:7-21

Questions for Reflection:
What does it mean to love someone as defined in Scripture?
What would encourage your loving pursuit of God and others?
What are some practical ways you can flee from the sin of partiality?

Further Study:

SANCTIFYING RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are the context by which a student's distinctive Christian life is cultivated and experienced.
We reject hyper individualism and promote a sanctified pursuit of friendships that are committed to mortifying sin while seeking personal holiness in everyday life. The Distinctive of SANCTIFYING RELATIONSHIPS is defined by the interrelated biblical principles of BELONGING TOGETHER, INTER-PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP, and CONFRONTATION-RESTORATION.

- **BELONGING TOGETHER**: A distinctive Christian life is not lived in independent isolation. The people of God are characterized by their relational interconnectedness in spirit and life. Comprehensive student development that is distinctively biblical occurs within the context of relationships committed to experiencing the realities of the Christian life to the glory of God. I Corinthians 12:12-31; Hebrews 10:24-25; Ephesians 2:14-21

  Questions for Reflection:
  What are some practical ways you can fight against independence and pursue knowing and being known by those around you?
  Do you need other people in your life to grow spiritually? Why or why not?
  In what ways are you promoting the biblical “one-another’s” around you?

  Further Study:
  *Passages relating to BELONGING TOGETHER with PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP:*
  Ephesians 4:25-32, I Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:1-8

- **INTER-PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP**: The purpose of relationships in a believing community is to encourage one another towards Christ-likeness by the grace of God and according to His Word. This process of mutual sanctification occurs by interpersonal pursuit of one another to advance the knowledge of Christ into everyday life. I Corinthians 11:1; II Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:1-10

  Questions for Reflection:
  Who are you going to pursue discipleship with this year?
  Who are you seeking to be discipled by this year?
  What are some practical strategies to promote discipleship in your life and the lives of those around you?

  Further Study:
  *Passages relating to PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP with CONFRONTATION-RESTORATION:*
  Colossians 1:28-29, I Thessalonians 5:14, Hebrews 3:12-13

- **CONFRONTATION-RESTORATION**: Relationships focused on progressing in Christ-likeness includes the exhortation to mortify sinful dispositions and actions. The journey of confrontation of sin, repentance, and restoration cannot be excluded from the process of spiritual development in a believing community. Matthew 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-5; Colossians 3:16-17

  Questions for Reflection:
  Are you faithful to confront sin in love to those around you?
  What is difficult about confrontation-restoration, and how do those concerns relate to our responsibility as believers to one another?
  What are some biblical encouragements and exhortations that help you remain faithful in this area?

  Further Study:
  *Passages relating to CONFRONTATION-RESTORATION with SERVANTHOOD:*
  Galatians 6:1-5, Ephesians 4:15-16, Colossians 3:16-17
GOSPEL WITNESS

A distinctive Christian life has the primary purpose of reflecting and magnifying the redemptive work of Christ to the world. It is the responsibility of every believer to steward the truth of the Gospel in both word and deed. This commitment postures every student to proclaim the Truth to their generation within the context of God’s unfolding plan of redemption. The Distinctive of GOSPEL WITNESS is defined by the interrelated biblical principles of SERVANTHOOD, LOCAL CHURCH, and GLOBAL MISSION.

- SERVANTHOOD: A distinctive Christian life moves sanctifying relationships beyond a right understanding of the gospel to good works of righteousness. A life committed to servanthood gives witness to the world the implications of the gospel in action. Ephesians 2:10; Matthew 20:26-28; John 13:14-16
  
  Questions for Reflection:
  
  What are some practical ways that you can serve those around you for the sake of the gospel every day?
  
  What motivates your heart to serve others?
  
  How does Servanthood relate to leadership?

  Further Study:
  

- LOCAL CHURCH: The church stands as the institution that the Lord has assigned to advance and give witness to the glories of the Gospel. The local church is the regional manifestation of the people of God and is to be cultivated and protected. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; I Timothy 3:14-15

  Questions for Reflection:
  
  Are you a member of a local church in the greater Santa Clarita area?
  
  In what ways can you promote the ministry in the local church to those around you? Do you consider participation in a local church as another activity or a lifestyle?

  Further Study:
  

- GLOBAL MISSION: The Master's College promotes a comprehensive biblical worldview development in a believing community to advance the greater global community of faith as an exemplary light of redemption by which Christ would call sinful man to repentance. The mission of God is to call individuals from every tribe, tongue, and nation and we desire to promote that plan. Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:13-16

  Questions for Reflection:
  
  Do you share the gospel to those around you on a regular basis?
  
  In what ways can you promote global evangelism in your life as a college student in a Christian college?
  
  In what ways can you invite those around you to join in advancing the gospel globally?
Further Study:
Passages relating to GLOBAL MISSION with SOVEREIGN LORDSHIP: Romans 16:25-27, 1 Peter 1:3-2:2, Romans 10:9-17

The Distinctives become a lens that illuminates everything that happens at Master’s. There is an expectation that our students desire to grow as a Christian. We are confident that when an individual develops in their understanding and commitment to the Distinctives they will yield a foundational biblical framework to live a distinctively Christian life during their college years and beyond.
COMMUNITY COVENANT

The Master’s College invites all students who are serious about realizing their calling as a Christian to consider their responsibility to the greater Christian community when making application to the College. Not only are students applying to a course of study, they are applying to join a community of dedicated Christians who live, work, and study together for God’s greater purposes. Therefore, students of the College are asked to purposely decide to participate and contribute to the welfare and benefit of others while at the College, both on and off campus. Those who become a part of The Master’s College have decided that they have as their goal to be like the Master, and thus welcome the input of other godly individuals into their lives. This commitment is distinctively Christian and rejects the values of our culture, which promote self-interest, a demanding spirit, or a rights-based attitude.

Individual students can expect to receive the care, pursuit, encouragement, exhortation, and support provided from the administration, faculty, staff, and fellow students at The Master’s College. The leadership of the College will strive to consistently apply the biblical principles of loving leadership, spiritual oversight, and practical care modeled by Christ. A student can expect that the College community will provide avenues for discovering and employing their unique gifts and vocational interests. The College will offer multiple forums for fellowship, spiritual dialog, loving counsel, and settings for personal and corporate worship. In addition, the student should expect to experience the granting of forgiveness when true repentance is demonstrated, acceptance and care when sincerely striving for victory over sin, and practical assistance when facing physical needs.

With these goals and purposes in mind, we call every student to join the administration, faculty, and staff to uphold the Community Covenant of The Master’s College.

We as the administration, faculty, and staff of The Master’s College covenant to:

- Serve the students of The Master’s College as a faithful stewardship to the responsibilities given by our Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ.
- Subject everything we teach and administrate to the sufficient truth of the Word of God.
- Rely upon the work of the Spirit in the lives of our students to accomplish genuine spiritual growth.
- Emphasize the development of the heart over behavior modification to cultivate an environment where the whole of the curriculum develops genuine worship.
- Recognize a posture of repentance in a student's life when faced with the realities of their sin.
- Pursue all of our efforts at The Master’s College out of a heart of love for God and others.
- Relate to each student as a new creation in Christ and joint heirs of the inheritance we share in Christ.
- Educate as an expression of interpersonal discipleship in our lives.
- Sustain an environment of accountability and corrective discipline according to the biblical model of restoration.
- Enable students to employ the instruction they receive through practical and on-going acts of godly service to others.
- Invest into the lives of our students with the goal of strengthening the local church
- Mobilize the community of The Master’s College to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ worldwide.

We as the students of The Master’s College covenant to:

- Submit to the leadership of The Master’s College as an expression of our commitment to the Lordship of Christ.
• Seek to relate every academic discipline and detail of life to the sufficient truth of the Word of God.
• Strive in walking according to the Sprit and not according to the flesh.
• Advance in redeeming every-day opportunities as worship to God from the heart.
• Pursue a contrite heart as we honestly deal with the implications of sin in our lives.
• Increase in our love for God and relating that to how we love others.
• Perceive our belonging to the community of believers at The Master’s College as an expression of the greater membership of the body of Christ.
• Cultivate relationships that promote discipleship in our lives and those around us.
• Address sin in the lives of those around us in a spirit of gentleness as we desire to present every person complete in Christ.
• Develop opportunities to employ the instruction we receive through practical and on-going acts of godly service to others.
• Invest in the local church through membership and ministry as a stewardship of our education and expression of giftedness.
• Be an ambassador of Jesus Christ in every context to advance the proclamation of the Gospel worldwide.
STUDENT LIFE PROGRAMS

The Student Life Department is led by the Vice President of Student Life and a team of Student Affairs professionals with a united commitment to cultivate an environment where every student can grow into a greater likeness of the Master. The various programs of Student Life are designed to aid students in their growing understanding and commitment to living out a distinctive Christian life.

CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Campus Ministries designs every opportunity to promote a student's spiritual development through enriching programs year round. The following is a brief survey of some of the many ways a student can invest during their college years.

Chapel
Chapel is an exciting, dynamic event our college community enjoys together as we gather to worship the Lord. We enjoy singing His praises together, hearing reports of what He is doing in our midst, praying for world evangelism, and being challenged by the preaching of His Word.

Our goal in chapel is to bring students the best biblical teaching we can on subjects that are relevant to collegians and young adults. We will typically select a theme (e.g., morality, the attributes of God, worship, discipleship) and develop it over the course of a week. Chapel speakers include our President, Dr. John MacArthur, members of the College community, and men of God from across the country and around the world who are uniquely gifted and qualified to address collegians.

Chapel provides inspiration and worship for the entire College family. Therefore, chapel is considered a vital part of The Master’s College curriculum, complimenting a student’s academic and spiritual experience.

The Truth and Life Conference
The Truth & Life Conference annually invites our Master’s alumni, friends, and family to join our current students, faculty and staff for a unique four-day event on the campus of The Master’s College. TLC is designed to be a powerful worship experience for those who wish to be refreshed and renewed with one central focus – the expositional preaching and teaching of the Scriptures. For over ten years, the Truth & Life Conference has purposed to proclaim the inerrant authority of Word of God to the glory of God and the sanctification of His people. Past TLC speakers who have joined our President Dr. MacArthur include: Dr. R.C. Sproul, Dr. Erwin Lutzer, and Dr. Howard Hendricks. For more information about TLC, please access www.truthandlife.org.

Servant Leadership Staff (SLS)
The Student Life Department believes that biblical community life on this campus is initiated and modeled by its students. The mission of Master’s as defined in the doctrinal statements and modeled through the Distinctives is fleshed out in the context of a life-on-life community. It is through the lives of committed students who are faithful to pursue this goal and call others to follow that the reality of a biblical community can be lived out on campus.

Being on Servant Leadership Staff at The Master’s College is an incredible privilege and at the same time a great responsibility. It is the aim of Servant Leadership Staff to be a team that honors the Lord in all they do, to sacrifice of themselves for the growth of the community, and to model Christlikeness consistently, with the goal of impacting lives on The Master’s College campus for the Kingdom.
With these goals in mind, Servant Leadership Staff provides an opportunity for various students to serve in specific ministry capacities both on and off campus. These opportunities include service as a member of the Associated Student Body, as a Global Outreach missions team leader, as a Commuter Assistant, or as a Resident Assistant, Assistant Resident Assistant, Dorm Representative, or Senior Dorm Representative in one of the residence halls.

**First-Year Experience**

We understand that the first year is when a student transitions into becoming a beloved member of this college community. Our First-Year Experience program aims at helping every student gain the most out of their college years. This effort includes our Week of Welcome orientation program (www.masters.edu/wow), Biblical Fundamentals Course, College Life Seminars, and First-Year Leadership opportunities. These programs harmonize to give the student all the tools and opportunities to gain the most out of their time at Master’s.

**Outreach Week**

Outreach Week is an aid in the spiritual formation of our students and the building of strategic partnerships with local churches. We have students who want to utilize their gifts within a local church. We have churches that are looking for assistance with their ministries. Through Outreach Week we are able to both meet needs and build lasting partnerships. Many of our students make long term commitments to churches they visit during Outreach Week and many churches offer our students internship positions. During October the College sets aside five days and allows students to go in teams to local churches and serve. Local churches and communities are exposed to our students while our students are plugged into a local church that, prayerfully, they can call home while in college.

**Local Church Ministries**

We desire to provide opportunities for students to integrate into a local church body by encouraging interaction and developing relationships among older men and women. Student Life seeks to encourage students to serve a local church body in faithfulness and provide avenues to grow in their understanding of their function in God’s plan for His people. Our purpose is practically fulfilled through strategic partnerships with churches. Students may access the directory information of local churches at www.masters.edu.

**Strategic Ministries**

We have selected several para-church ministries that represent a wide variety of ministry opportunities for our students. These ministries are serving in strategic areas, both in L.A. County and around the world. We believe that students who participate in these ministries, in conjunction with their service in the Local Church, will give them broader appreciation for how their giftedness can be employed for the gospel. For a detailed list of these strategic ministries check our website at www.masters.edu/campusministries.

**Day of Prayer**

A day is set aside each fall semester as a special time for the entire College community to gather for heart-searching prayer and praise. Prayer time is spent in chapel, in residence hall groups, and in academic departments.

**Community Day**

Community day is a day students can invest time in Placerita Canyon (our local neighborhood) and the city of Santa Clarita. We clean, paint, rake, wash windows, pick-up trash along the roads, and do other odd jobs. The goal is to meet practical needs and to cultivate life-changing relationships with our neighbors.
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Office of Student Activities exists to further the Distinctives of The Master’s College and the Student Life Department by providing opportunities for recreation, entertainment, and fellowship for the entire campus community comprised of students, faculty, and staff. The Associated Student Body (ASB) is comprised of Servant Leadership Staff members whose purpose is to facilitate relationship building on campus by providing various dorm-based and campus-wide activities. These activities include dorm activities, campus activities, Day of Prayer, and Community Day, as well as the facilitation of on-campus clubs.

Campus Events
Student Activities understands that in addition to classroom and chapel involvement, the college experience includes social activities as well. So, ASB gives significant effort to produce events that make our campus exciting and fun. Everything from major amusement parks to talent shows, our ASB organizes a wide variety of events to make a student’s college experience complete.

Dorm Events
Dorm Representatives and Senior Dorm Representatives are members of ASB who work in coordination with the RD and RAs of their residence hall, to plan group activities and events. These activities could include wing events, brother/sister dorm events, Christmas and end-of-year parties, and the coordinating of all special events within the residence halls.

Student Societies
The purpose of clubs at Master’s is to create opportunities for students to meet and engage others who share similar interests, goals, and talents. Clubs are effective in encouraging the development of student leadership, mobilizing students toward common goals, and stimulating social, intellectual, and spiritual growth on campus.

Intramurals and Fitness Center
Research shows that a student’s overall intellectual development is enhanced through physical activity. We agree, but we also think it’s just fun and healthy. Students can participate in intramural leagues for every fitness level throughout the school year. Sign-ups are regularly announced and administrated by our office of Campus Activities. The fitness center is open daily with hours that complement a student’s lifestyle, giving them the opportunity to stay fit and study, sometimes at the same time.

GLOBAL OUTREACH

The Global Outreach Office at The Master’s College exists to provide awareness about global missions and opportunities for the campus community to participate in vocationally-based short-term mission trips.

Global Outreach Teams
The Office of Global Outreach desires to provide each student with an opportunity to participate in and learn from the work of God in an overseas cross-cultural setting. Ministry opportunities are selected based on the following critical factors: partnership with a local church, evangelistic opportunities, vocational participation, length of service, and partnership with Master’s alumni. Teams are formed during the fall semester, receive training during the spring semester, and serve overseas during the summer. All teams that minister through the Office of Global Outreach are led by students who are members of the Servant Leadership Staff.
The Preparation for Global Outreach class trains students in theological, philosophical, and practical aspects of short term missions: theology of missions, cultural research methods, logistical details, team-building, and tropical health, among others.

**Global Mobilization Week**
The Master’s College sets aside one week each November to focus the attention of the community on how God is bringing men and women to Himself around the world. This week includes seminars from missions agency representatives, a special chapel series, missions photography exhibit, and an international marketplace. Students will be encouraged to consider how and where God might use their training.

**Missionary in Residence (MIR)**
Each year, The Master’s College welcomes a new missionary family to live on campus and minister among our students. The Missionaries in Residence serve as a global resource on campus by teaching missions-related classes, mentoring students interested in missions, and participating in discipleship activities with International Students and Third Culture Kids. The MIR can be contacted through e-mail at missionaries@masters.edu.

**STUDENT ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMS**

**International Student Advancement**
The international community at The Master’s College includes over 100 international and Third-Culture Kid (TCK) students from nearly 40 different countries. We desire to shepherd these students through their transition to The Master’s College, mobilize them toward involvement in all areas of campus, share their unique backgrounds with the campus at large, and provide opportunities for them to build authentic relationships with one another. Our staff actively promotes the spiritual, academic, and social success of these students through a pre-WOW orientation, a fall international retreat, service projects, prayer partners, a celebration of completion, personal counseling, and other community events.

**Multi-Cultural Student Advancement**
We are committed to developing a distinctively Christian multi-cultural community under the lordship of Christ and according to His Word. We recognize that cultures not only stem from continents and countries, but arise within cities and regions in our nation. Through our Multi-Cultural Student Advancement Office, we seek to serve and care for students who join us from diverse contexts. We desire to see students of different cultures participating in and contributing to campus life as well as the community through service and ministry opportunities. Clubs like the C3 Unity Club work to grow interpersonal relationships on campus and promote genuine Christian unity. Our culturally diverse chapel program and on-campus public forums provide opportunity for every student to grow in awareness and compassion toward multi-cultural issues.

**Military Student Advancement**
Our Military Resource Office aims to serve students in their transition into civilian and student life. Beginning with a unique orientation session that works within WOW, we are here to support students by promoting community, fellowshipping and offering encouragement as they become familiar with The Master’s College. Through special events and forums, we seek to provide opportunities for involvement in all areas of the campus. Whether students have served in the military, are serving, planning to serve, or involved in a ROTC program, we seek to be a resource during their time at Master’s. Our office is also available to assist the students in answering any
questions they may have regarding military educational benefits, such as the GI Bill and Tuitions Assistance.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

The Master’s College Athletics Department serves to support the mission of Master’s and to strengthen a tradition of quality athletics by investing in the character formation and personal discipleship of student-athletes while challenging them to excel academically as disciples of Christ.

Master’s is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and competes in the Golden State Athletic Conference. Our athletes compete at a high level and achieve national recognition individually and in team competition. The whole campus comes out to support our athletes on game day and enjoys the fellowship and excitement of our quality athletics. For more information check out the athletic homepage at masters.edu/athletics.

RESIDENT LIFE

The Associate Deans of Students oversee all resident and commuter life programs as well as student counseling and shepherding. They also lead the staff of Resident Directors, Resident Assistants, and Assistant Resident Assistants who serve in the residence halls. Unlike other schools, Resident Life staff is people you want to know and be known by. They are individuals whose primary role on campus is to guide and help students grow spiritually through every day college life.

On-Campus
The Residence Halls of The Master’s College are a primary forum for students to live out the commitments of the Community Covenant. Living within each residence hall are several full-time and student staff members whose aim is to cultivate a community that glorifies God.

- Resident Director (RD)
The RD is a full-time, post-graduate position responsible for oversight of a given residence hall. Their primary responsibility is the shepherding of students in their residence hall. This includes leading their RAs and ARAs, counseling students, overseeing the discipline of students in their residence hall, and maintaining a healthy learning community.

- Resident Assistant (RA)
RAs are paid student employees who assist the RD and work closely with each resident on their wing. They are members of Servant Leadership Staff whose primary responsibility is to minister to the students on their wing. This includes peer counseling, planning wing events, and maintaining a healthy wing community.

- Assistant Resident Assistant (ARA)
The ARA is a student on Servant Leadership Staff who volunteers to help their Resident Assistant minister to the men or women on their wing. This includes purposeful involvement in the life of the wing and consistent pursuit of individuals on the wing as well as helping the RA administratively and in planning wing events. This may also include leading a small group.
Commuter Students
The RD of Commuter Life provides leadership for commuter students and oversees our Extended Housing. The Commuter Assistants are students who volunteers through the Servant Leadership Staff to work with the RD to help minister to our extended housing and commuter students. Students can contact the RDCL by e-mail commuterlife@masters.edu.
STUDENT STANDARD OF CONDUCT

The Master’s College is committed to developing its students into people who obey God because they are personally accountable to Him and His Word rather than to man and his arbitrary rules. To bring clarity in this regard, our standards of student conduct are divided into two categories, Biblical Mandates and College Policies. Biblical Mandates are specific commands from God’s Word which apply to every believer’s life. College Policies are student requirements designed by the College administration to facilitate an educational environment which honors the Lord.

While a student’s personal convictions may differ somewhat with these standards, their choice to become a part of The Master’s College community declares a commitment to willingly abide by these standards. The student, by virtue of his or her signature on the Application for Admission, commits to live within the framework of the standards of the College both on and off campus while each semester is in session (including Thanksgiving Break, Winterim, Easter Break, Spring Break, and Post-session) or while living in the residence halls or participating in any College-sponsored program. Students on Christmas or summer break are expected to honor the Lord by living a life submitted to biblical mandates and encouraged to honor the authority of parents, church leaders, and employers in regard to matters of personal preference.

For further clarity, a resident student is considered “on contract” from their residence check-in until the Sunday after finals week in the fall and spring semesters. A commuter student is considered “on contract” from the first day of classes until the Sunday after finals week in the fall and spring semesters. For all students, Christmas break begins the Sunday after finals week and concludes the first day of the Truth and Life Conference. Summer break begins Sunday after finals week. By adhering to these policies the student is not only loving his brothers and sisters who attend Master’s, but is also honoring the leadership of Master’s.

Any student who is employed or commissioned to participate in any College function or service is considered “on contract” for the extent of the agreed duration. Any student living in residence for any amount of time is considered “on contract” for the duration of that agreement.

All College Policies are in effect on the Master’s campus and at all College events, whether or not the student is “on contract.” The Master’s College campus and events are under the purview of the College Handbook guidelines. Violation of any of the Biblical Mandates or College Policies by a registered student, whether the student be “on” or “off contract,” while attending or visiting The Master’s College campus, extended campus, or events is strictly prohibited.

STUDENT STANDARD OF CONDUCT: BIBLICAL MANDATES

We expect student conduct that is in harmony with loving obedience to the Word of God. In other words, we promote what the Bible promotes in the lives of our students, and we prohibit what the Bible prohibits in the lives of our students.

We seek to lovingly serve students by encouraging them to pursue the fruit of the Spirit and put off the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:16-23). The following are some key biblical mandates (certainly not all of them) to consider while living in the College community. Those listed under “Walking in the Spirit” should be manifested in the heart and life of every believer. Those listed under “Walking in the Flesh” describe sin which is characteristic of slavery to sin and not consistent with the transformed heart and life of a believer.
Some examples of Walking in the Spirit include:

Loving One Another
As believers we are called to love another (Col. 3:12-14). This love is not always easy, and applies to loving family, College faculty and staff, fellow students, and even roommates. We will call students to love, honor, and prefer one another, and to manifest that love in their lifestyle.

Submission to Authority
Romans 13:1-7 states that believers should have an attitude of submission towards all authorities as God ordained. We will call students to submit to all authorities in their life, including parents, school administration, and government.

Stewardship
God is the giver of all things to man, whether spiritual or physical. The believer is called to honor God with his or her possessions in Proverbs 3:9. Everything that God has entrusted to a person, their money, time, belongings, skills and abilities, are to be used to glorify God. We will call students to be good stewards of their belongings, room, education, time, and spiritual gifting.

Modesty
All believers are called to exhibit modesty. This is expressed in an attitude of submission rather than pride in 1 Peter 3:8. Modesty can be seen in speech, in action, and in choice of clothing or personal appearance. We will call both men and women to have a humble spirit and therefore to be modest in word, deed, and appearance. For more information on the issue of modesty and clothing, please see Appendix 1: Discernment in Christian Liberty.

Some examples of Walking in the Flesh include:

Anger
Galatians 5:20 lists “outbursts of anger” as a fruit of the flesh. Often times, pride will deceive our heart into thinking that our needs are the most important. This can result in anger when we don’t get our way. Philippians chapter 2 shows that as believers we are called to look out for the interests of others and exalt others above ourselves. We will call students to consider others as more important than themselves.

Jealousy
Jealousy is also listed in Galatians 5:20 as a fruit of the flesh. Again we can be tempted to desire what others have because we think we deserve it or we are better than them. This is another area where pride infects our thinking. We must learn to be content in whatever circumstances, as Paul teaches in Philippians 4:10-14. “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” refers to living in any physical circumstance, whether in poverty or in riches. We will call students to be content in their present circumstance.

Deception
Ephesians 4:25 calls believers to lay aside falsehood and speak the truth with others. Deception can occur in many subtle forms. We can be tempted to lie outright, to change circumstances to make ourselves or others look better, to hide the truth in silence, or to spread lies about others. All of these are sin and have destructive consequences. We will call students to speak truthfully.
Unwholesome Speech
Ephesians 4:29 calls believers not to speak with unwholesome words, but to build up others with their speech. The sin is in speaking words that tear people down, disrespect people, that are spoken with the intent to hurt others, and that contain coarse or sensual joking. We will call students to speech which edifies others.

Stealing
Exodus 20:15 expresses a simple command from the Lord: “You shall not steal.” While this may seem elementary, there are constant temptations to steal from others. There may be temptations to steal others’ property, money, or even academic work (see statement on academic honesty below). We will call students to not steal.

Lust
In 1 Peter 2:11 God calls believers to abstain from “fleshly lusts.” Our flesh will tempt us to pursue its desires without thinking. These may be sexual desires, material desires, or proud desires. We will call students to manifest self-control. We also recognize that sin is manifested when others tempt a fellow believer to lust. We call our students to love each other by setting aside dress, speech, or possessions which unnecessarily tempt their brother or sister.

Sexual Immorality
1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 says, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God.” This passage tells us that sexual involvement outside of marriage is anything but an expression of real love. God’s standard is toward progressive purity and holiness, with both the desires of the heart and the actions of the body. We will call students to sexual purity in thought and deed.

Substance Abuse
Ephesians 5:18 calls believers to not be drunk with wine, but to be “filled with the Holy Spirit.” The difference is control. God doesn’t want alcohol or any other substance to control our behavior, but He wants His Holy Spirit to control our behavior. We will call students to be controlled by the Spirit rather than by substances.

STANDARD OF CONDUCT: COLLEGE POLICIES

Our College Policies should not be considered Biblical Mandates, but are reasonable standards of conduct that promote a comprehensive learning community committed to living out a distinctive Christian life.

There are several reasons to have college policies relating to a student’s conduct at The Master’s College. First, there are standards that are valuable for conducting everyday life in residence that is civil and promote safety. We seek to limit our policies to allow for as much independent life management as possible while managing a campus that is profitable for a learning community. Second, is to recognize that there is a broad spectrum of life experiences and maturity among a large group of Christian young people. It is reasonable to ask the community as a whole to set aside personal preferences to allow every member of this community to be undistracted in their commitment grow spiritually. Finally, is it important to recognize that several of these standards of conduct are designed in loving protection from common sinful strongholds that traditionally are a source of temptation for the maturing college student. A student’s adherence to these College Policies does not make them a better Christian, but does help promote a community committed to living out a distinctive Christian life.
GENERAL POLICIES

• Master’s prohibits students from violating all California state and federal laws.
• Master’s prohibits students from possessing or consuming tobacco products and alcoholic beverages.
• Master’s prohibits students from the misuse of prescription drugs.
• Master’s prohibits students from possessing or viewing any pornographic material (video, Internet, video games, or printed).
• Master’s prohibits students from bringing on campus any kind of weapons, explosives, firearms, bb and pellet guns, airsoft guns, paintball guns, and other objects or materials that the Deans judge may be harmful to student safety.
• Master’s prohibits students from dancing. Students with previous training in professionally recognized forms of artistic dance (tap, ballet, ballroom, etc.) may submit a written request to the Deans’ Office for permission to continue in their artistic pursuits in studios or performances.
• Master’s prohibits students from gambling.
• Master’s prohibits any “unwholesome” [i.e. actions inconsistent with our profession as Christ’s followers committed to holiness, truth, and the proper stewardship of His blessings (possessions, time, etc.)] use of Electronic Media which may include, but not be limited to: email, text, chat, email attachments, video files, audio files, electronic/internet gaming, web page viewing or file transfers is expressly forbidden. All Internet use and e-mail is monitored by Master’s staff. For more information please see Appendix 4: Media Ethics Policy Statement.

APPEARANCE AND DRESS CODE

The purpose of a dress code at The Master’s College is that the student demonstrates a God-glorifying lifestyle by maintaining a modest appearance and dress. As fashion is constantly changing and can fit different body types in different ways, The Master’s College administration, faculty, and staff reserves the opportunity to ask a student to refrain from wearing anything that is disruptive to an environment of learning or that is inappropriate, based on the principles of biblical wisdom and modesty.

Chapel and Class Dress
It is our desire that the students would apply biblical principles toward an appropriate and respectful manner of dress while in chapel and classes (before 3:55 pm). Following are examples of both appropriate and inappropriate dress.

Appropriate:
• Pants, jeans, skirts, dresses
• Collared or dress shirts or tops; modest, neat, and appropriate T-shirts

Inappropriate:
• Bare feet
• Shorts (defined as anything that shows the knee when sitting, acknowledging that oversized shorts are still shorts)
• Short skirts and short dresses (whose hem or slit are higher than a hand width from the knee)
• Tight Jeans
• Low-riding pants
• Revealing shirts (midriff exposed; extremely tight, backless, racerback, strapless, sheer, or lingerie tops; revealing or drawing attention to the bust line. Women may wear tank tops with straps at least two fingers wide)
• Tank tops for men
• Work overalls and/or gear
• Extremely faded or ragged clothing and footwear
• Athletic apparel (sweats, athletic warm-ups, and jerseys)
• Military fatigues (unless required by Military Service)
• Cross-gendered apparel

Daily Dress
While on-campus or off-campus, students should pursue their daily dress according to the principles of biblical wisdom and modesty. The following are examples of a student’s appropriate and inappropriate daily dress:

Appropriate (in addition to the above list of appropriate dress):
  • Shorts
  • Athletic apparel (for further explanation, see Recreational Dress)
  • Work overalls and/or gear

Inappropriate:
  • Bare feet (outside the residence halls)
  • Short shorts (whose length does not reach at least the bottom of the fingertips when hands are placed next to one’s side AND BLANK)
  • Short skirts or dresses (whose hem or slit are higher than a hand width from the knee)
  • Spandex shorts or pants
  • Low-riding pants
  • Revealing shirts (midriff exposed; extremely tight, backless, racerback, strapless, sheer, or lingerie tops; revealing or drawing attention to the bust line. Women may wear tank tops with straps at least two fingers wide)
  • Pajamas worn in public, common spaces
  • Cross-gendered apparel

Recreational Dress
• Athletic apparel: In consideration of daily dress standards while participating in athletic activities, students are to refrain from wearing tight fitting and/or revealing workout clothing (spandex shorts/pants/sports tops and tight yoga pants). Certain kinds of sports and activities require specific apparel (volleyball shorts, swimwear, cross country gear, tennis skirts). We acknowledge that these fall outside of our daily dress guidelines. All students transitioning out of their practice or competition are required to change into clothes according to the daily dress guidelines for all public common areas (including the cafeteria, lounges, and travel to and from the area of activity).
• Swimsuits: Sunbathing and swimwear on campus is restricted to the pool area. All swimwear should be modest. Women are to wear bathing suits that have a modest neck-line and that do not expose the midriff.

Formal Dress
• The above Daily Dress guidelines apply to formal activities with the exception of the strap width of women’s dresses. Spaghetti straps are acceptable for formal activities.
General Appearance

• Hair: Hair color and styles must not be distracting. Men’s hair should be kept trimmed at or above a dress shirt collar.
• Body piercing: Students are not to wear or receive any form of body piercing while a student, with the exception of earrings for women. Men or women with stretched ears must wear plugs that completely fill the ear holes (no tunnels). If a student has an existing piercing, all jewelry and spacers must be removed prior to arrival on campus, for the duration of the school year.
• Tattoos: Tattoos are not to be received while the semester is in session. Displayed tattoos must not be inappropriate or distracting. Questionable tattoos must be covered in public.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Master’s requires that all students (at minimum) attend the main worship services at a local church each week. This gives the student a foundational engagement in the Local Church by which further ministry and service can be cultivated. Eight absences are permitted each semester to be used for illness, travel, emergencies, athletic and music events, or other situations. The main morning service and evening service are considered main worship services. If the student attends a church which holds both a main morning service and a main evening service, the student is required to attend these two services. Students who attend churches that have only one Sunday worship service are required to attend that service and one other weekly gathering of believers sponsored by their local church. Examples of other gatherings include midweek service, prayer meeting, small group Bible study, and ministry activity. Students missing more than eight services will be placed on Church Probation. For more information on Church Probation, please see the Chapel/Church Probation segment under the section entitled Disciplinary System.

Church attendance is to be reported in chapel on the following Monday morning. If for some reason a student is not in chapel that Monday, he may report his church attendance before Wednesday’s Chapel on Content Management under the section entitled “Students.”

CHAPEL ETIQUETTE AND ATTENDANCE

In order to cultivate an atmosphere of worship and to remove distractions so that all in the community may enjoy and participate in chapel, the following chapel etiquette has been established:

• Be on time and make sure to sign in; chapel begins at 9:10am and sign-ins will be taken down at 9:15am.
• Food and drink (with the exception of water in a closed cup or bottle) are not allowed in chapel.
• The use of all electronic devices is prohibited during chapel, including but not limited to: laptops/tablets (unless able to un-distractingly use for note-taking and reference), cell phones (for calling, text messaging, gaming, or any other use), iPods or other music devices, and cameras.
• No sleeping in chapel.
• No doing homework in chapel.
• Please do not come to chapel if you are ill and will distract those around you.
• No excessive displays of affection in chapel.
• If you arrive early to chapel, you may save a seat for one friend next to you. No objects may be used to save seats, only signs approved by the Office of Campus Ministries.
• Do not rearrange the position of seats to lengthen a row of seats, as this might cause a violation of the state fire code and create an obstacle to exiting the building in the case of an emergency.
• Also in accordance with state fire code, no one is allowed to sit on the floor of the gym during chapel.
• The doors behind the chapel stage (including both exterior gym doors and both locker room doors) are not to be used before or during chapel, except in the case of an emergency.
• You may not occupy reserved faculty and staff seating until the first song.

If a student violates chapel etiquette as stated above, any Student Life staff member may attribute this violation as a miss to the student’s chapel attendance.

Master’s requires that all students attend chapel every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Six absences are permitted each semester to be used for illness, emergencies, athletic and music events, or other situations. Tardiness to chapel services of more than five minutes or leaving chapel before it is over are considered as an absence. Students accruing more than six absences to chapel will be placed on Chapel Probation. For more information on Chapel Probation, please see the Chapel/Church Probation segment under the section entitled Disciplinary System.

Chapel attendance is recorded by signing in. Sign-in sheets will be posted according to housing assignments. Each student must sign in for himself; signatures by proxy will not be counted toward Chapel attendance.

Students who falsify attendance records will be placed on Chapel Probation immediately and forfeit their remaining absences for the semester.

In cases of unexpected misses, emergencies, or chronic illnesses, an additional Chapel Request Form is available from a student’s Resident Director. The student is eligible to submit the Additional Chapel Request Form only after they have used their allocated chapel misses for the semester. The Additional Chapel Request Form must be submitted to the Resident Director prior to the absence(s) or within one week after the absence(s).

Chapel exemption applications are available online only for commuter students with special situations. Application for exemption must be made prior to making any job or ministry commitment. Exemptions are granted on a semester-by-semester basis, so application for exemption must be filed each semester by the last day to add a class as stated by the Registrar’s Office. Allow two weeks for processing.

TRUTH AND LIFE CONFERENCE

All students are required to attend the Truth and Life Conference at the start of the Spring semester. This is a time inaugurating each year by enjoying fellowship within the College community through prayer, song, and worship. Each absence from a TLC main session will be counted as a chapel miss for the semester.

HOUSING ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

We are intentional in our housing assignments. Other schools might offer dormitories that are organized by major, year in school, or athletic teams. The Master’s College desires to promote a student’s spiritual
development in the context of the diversity in the body of Christ. Therefore we seek to balance housing assignments to represent a cross section of the community as a whole. We admit that the process of prioritizing student preferences and personalities can be difficult, but we see the benefit of cultivating an environment for mutual sanctification from different vantage points on the same biblical principles more valuable.

On-Campus Residence
Due to the social and spiritual development acquired through a biblically centered community residence and the increased opportunities for participation in campus life and academic success, all unmarried students who are taking a total of 9 units or more and who are not living with their parents are required to live on campus or in extended housing. In order to maximize the impact of relationships in the residence halls we do not isolate students by class, team, or major. In addition, we only adjust students housing arrangements during semester breaks.

Extended Housing
Oak Manor and Cornerstone are fully furnished, Master’s owned and operated apartment complexes located less than a mile from campus. The students in these apartments are cared for by the Student Life Staff and are considered to be part of the greater residential community at The Master's College. Returning students can experience apartment-style living at a reduced rate from normal dormitory residency costs. Male and female apartments are available.

Room Assignments
Room assignments are made by members of the Housing Committee. All roommate requests are carefully considered; however, all room and roommate assignments are at the discretion of the Housing Committee. The Housing Committee thoughtfully considers every student placement and reserves the exclusive right to assign housing. Room assignments are given to students as part of the check-in process on the first day the student is required to be on-campus.

Off-Campus Housing
All students requesting to live off-campus must submit an electronic application, available through Content Management. Qualifications for being considered for off-campus housing are: a student living with parents, a non-traditional student who is 22 years old or older, an academic senior, or a student who has lived six semesters on the Master’s campus. Being qualified for consideration, however, does not guarantee approval. The Deans and Resident Directors will carefully consider each submitted application.

All applications for off-campus housing must be submitted to the office of Student Life no later than August 1 for the fall semester and December 15 for the spring semester, except in cases when the Deans publish another deadline. No student can move off-campus once a semester has begun as the housing contract with the school is for the entire semester.

RESIDENCE HALL POLICIES

Guidelines and Procedures
Rules, guidelines, and procedures in the residence halls are to cultivate an atmosphere that is conducive to study, fellowship, sleep, and mutual respect of all residents. The residence hall staff functions with the full authority of the Office of Student Life in helping to maintain a healthy campus environment. We ask every student to respect all of the College facilities.
General Residence Hall Policies

Residence Hall Specific Rules
Rules specific to each residence hall will be explained in the mandatory fall residence hall meeting.

Residence Hall/Wing Meetings
All residence hall/wing meetings are mandatory. There is a $20 fine for missing any residence hall or wing meeting.

Quiet Hours
For the consideration of different schedules, general quietness should be maintained in the residence halls from 10:00pm-6:00am.

Residence Hall Activities
Students are to refrain from boisterous activities in the halls and lounges. Students will be obligated for all damages they cause.

Laundry Facilities
Each residence hall is equipped with coin-operated laundry facilities. Please keep this area free of bottles and boxes and be prompt in picking up clothing. To avoid disturbing others, please finish laundry prior to 12:00 midnight.

Lounges
The lounges are for relaxation and enjoyment. Special care should be taken in keeping them presentable and in being considerate to guests or fellow students. Casual, modest dress is acceptable in residence hall lounge areas. The student on lounge duty will promote a calm and studious environment and evacuate all dorm residents from the lounge at 2:00 am every night.

Lounge furniture is provided for the mutual enjoyment of all and must remain in the lounge for that purpose. Destructive activity is not allowed. Students will be obligated to pay for any furniture they damage.

Group use of the lounges is acceptable with permission from the Resident Director. Each group using the lounge is responsible for clean up.

Water and Water Balloons
Neither water nor water balloons may be thrown from any building on campus.

Room and Car Security
Students should keep rooms and cars locked. The College is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged articles.

Bicycles
Bicycles should be kept outside the residence halls in the bike racks provided by the College.

Pets and Animals
Pets are limited to fish only.
Earthquake and Fire Procedure
In the event of a fire drill or earthquake, follow the procedure posted in the residence hall and the instructions given by the Resident Director. Do not return to buildings until instructed to do so. Fire-protection equipment is for the protection of life and property. To use fire-fighting equipment or alarms for any other purpose is not only unlawful, but it also endangers the lives of others in the community. Discharging such equipment is a serious offense. The student responsible will be charged for the replacement of the fire extinguisher and any property damage incurred.

Room Policies

Bedding and Linens
Each student is responsible to supply and clean his or her own pillow, extra-long twin sheets, blankets, bedspread, towels, and washcloths.

Kitchen Equipment
Students may use coffee pots. One small refrigerator is also allowed in each residence hall room. Hot plates, Foreman grills, toaster ovens, sandwich makers, and other appliances are not permitted. One microwave per wing is permitted.

Fire Code Regulations
California Fire Code mandates the following regulations:

- No decorations on the ceilings.
- There must be twelve (12) inches of space between the ceiling and any combustible material placed on the walls.
- For every five (5) feet of continuous combustible decorations, a twelve (12) inch separation needs to be made to help prevent the spread of fire.
- No combustible decorations are to be placed on exit doors.
- Christmas trees are not allowed unless they are flame retardant.
- Curtains, blinds, or drapes must be flame retardant material.
- Residence hall room doors are not to be propped open.
- Halls and stair wells must be clear of obstructions.
- Extension cords are to be used sparingly. Surge protectors may be used but not plugged one into another.
- Floor heaters must be UL rated and kept away from flammable items.
- Absolutely no burning candles/incense, or open flame are to be used in the residence halls.

(For more information on the California Fire Code, please see the California Fire Code segment of the section entitled Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Laws.)

Room Care and Room Checks
Rooms can be checked Monday through Friday. The Resident Assistant will announce room checks. The following list can help in proper room care.

- General: Beds need to be made, floors clean, belongings in orderly fashion, and wastebaskets not overflowing. To avoid insects, empty food containers should be removed.
- Walls: Walls must not be marred.
- Items Displayed: Items displayed (i.e., posters, pictures, etc.) should be in keeping with the policies and spirit of the College.
- Students will be asked to remove any item considered sensual, coarse, or ethnically disparaging.
• Furniture: Students should not tamper with furniture or facilities in any way.
• Air Conditioners: Nothing should be placed on or directly in front of the air-conditioners.

Room checks are to be done once a week by each wing’s Resident Assistant. Three room failures will result in a meeting with your RD and a $20 fine. If a fourth room failure should occur, the student must meet with the Deans.

Room Check-Out at Mid-Semester
For those leaving the College mid-semester for any reason, check out with the Office of Student Life and the appropriate Resident Director during office hours Monday through Friday. Also, they must complete the checkout sheet and turn in room keys. A forwarding address must be left with the Mail Room and the appropriate paperwork must be completed with the Registrar’s Office.

Room Check-out at the End of a Semester
Students must check out with their Resident Assistant during scheduled checkout times, completing the checkout sheet and turning in room and lounge keys. Students should leave a forwarding address with the Mail Room. Any student who fails to complete check-out will receive a $250 fine, charged to their student account.

Television
Cable and satellite television is not permitted in the residence hall rooms. TV monitors no greater than 32 inches are allowed for appropriate entertainment and gaming.

Projectors
The use of any projector must be approved by the Resident Director.

Room Keys
Room keys are issued when the signed Room Rental Contract is given during registration. If a student should lose their key, they should report the loss to Plant Operations. The cost for replacing a room or lounge key is $50. Duplicating a school key is illegal.

Entering Students’ Rooms
When there is reason to believe that the standards of the College are being violated, members of the College administration may enter and search a room, preferably in the presence of its occupant(s). Individual students and their cars may be searched under similar circumstances. Students may not enter another student’s room without an invitation, nor remain in the room when asked to leave. The personal property rights of others must be respected.

Guests and Visitors

Guests
Regular guest rooms are not available, but guests of a student may stay in their residence hall. Each student will be responsible for the conduct and behavior of their guest. Be sure to secure consent from roommates and obtain approval from your Resident Assistant prior to the guest’s arrival. Note that extended visits are prohibited, and the College staff reserves the right to ask any guest to leave the campus at any time. Guests may stay up to three nights each semester without charge. If a student desires to have their guest stay more than three nights, permission must be obtained from the Resident Director prior to the guest’s arrival. They will then be charged $15.00 per night. Guests are under the same closed campus policy as the student they are visiting and are expected to comply with these restrictions. Guests are required to obtain a guest parking pass from Campus Security for their vehicle. Students are also responsible for any parking tickets given to their guests if the guests
do not pay the tickets.

**Students Visiting from Another Residence Hall or Commuter Students**

We understand that staying overnight is both fun and helpful at times. Students are welcome to stay in a residence hall that is not their own according to the following guidelines:

- Students may stay overnight in a residence hall that is not their own a maximum of once per week.
- As a courtesy, please make sure that all roommates are OK with the student staying.
- In situations that necessitate more that the allotted amount of overnights stays, the student may ask the RD to give an exception to the once per week policy.
- There will be no charge for Master’s commuters staying overnight in a dorm.

**Members of the Opposite Sex**

Men and women are not permitted in each other’s dorm rooms at any time during the academic year. Men are only permitted in women’s housing, and women in men’s housing, during scheduled open-dorm events, or with the permission of the RD or Dean. Men and women are allowed in each other’s student lounges. Members of the opposite sex are asked not to put themselves in a position where they might violate another’s privacy. Specific areas of concern include wing doors, residence hall room windows, and hallways immediately in front of rooms.

**Solicitation**

Soliciting by non-students is not permitted in College residence halls since it interferes with study and sleep, can be used for purposes of theft, and may compromise general security on campus. Any student wishing to sell merchandise in the residence hall should obtain permission from his or her Resident Director.

**Break Housing and Early Arrival**

**Break Housing Policy**

Students are welcome to stay in the campus residence halls during Thanksgiving break, Easter break, and spring break; however, meals during these breaks are not included in meal plan charges. The residence halls will be closed during the Christmas and summer breaks. Semester charges do not include housing and meals during the Christmas and summer breaks. The student must apply for housing during this time and will be charged a weekly rate. Student Life reserves the right to consolidate students as the need arises.

A student must be returning to Master’s the following semester in order to request housing during the Christmas or summer breaks, with the only exception being graduating seniors enrolled in winterim or post session classes. In addition, the student must meet one of the following criteria: employed full-time on-campus under the student work-study program, counseling for sport camps (only for the duration of the camps) and taking post-session classes (only for the duration of the classes).

Housing during the Christmas and summer breaks may be requested online while registering for winterim or post session. Anyone requesting housing or early arrival for another approved College purpose must stop by King Hall for a Housing Registration Form.

Those students who are eligible to reside in the residence halls during Christmas and summer breaks will be required to uphold the Biblical Mandates and College Policies regarding student conduct for the duration of their stay in the residence hall. If at any point a student is in violation of these
policies, Student Life reserves the right to ask them to secure another residence. Each student is responsible to pay designated fees prior to their residence. Each student is responsible to check in at the designated residence hall during the hours assigned for check-in and to follow the check out procedure as established by the Break Housing Coordinator.

Early Arrival Procedure
Students may return early to the residence halls after Christmas or summer break only for a Master’s-related or sponsored event. Early arrival will be arranged by your College Sponsor through the Dean’s Office. Students who return to campus early under the Early Arrival Procedure may return only on the specified day. Once an Early Arrival student has checked into their assigned residence hall, the student will be held responsible to abide by all Biblical Mandates and College Policies as established in the Student Handbook.

Those who attempt to stay in the dorms prior to their Fall check-in date will be fined $250 and told to move out until their check-in date. This includes athletes whose teams have specific Early Arrival dates and times. If you will be arriving in Santa Clarita prior to your allowed check-in date, you must arrange temporary off-campus housing with a church member, friend, Master’s student, or coach.

Closed Campus Policy
The campus is open daily from sunrise to 12:00am. When the campus is closed, all campus buildings are closed and locked. Students and guests are not permitted to loiter or wander on campus during these hours and lounge occupancy is restricted to the residents of that dorm. Both students and guests will be required to show identification to access upper campus during closed hours. Student Life guides students to get the proper rest and reflection needed to engage in the fast-paced, rigorous college climate and encourages resident students to be in their halls by closed campus. Proper renewal gives every student the opportunity to develop the life management skills that cultivate a healthy mental, physical and spiritual life during their college experience. The Resident Life Staff will routinely monitor late night arrivals and approach any student who displays a pattern of returning to campus after it is closed. This discussion will explore if the student’s late night activities (employment included) adversely affect the student’s academic and spiritual development. The Resident Life Staff will determine with the student appropriate guidelines for late night arrivals and give personal accountability towards that end. If the student displays a disregard for these community guidelines he or she can be placed on student probation along with a nightly curfew monitored by their Resident Life Staff.

Pranks and Appropriate Activity
All pranks must be previously approved by all RDs whose residence halls are involved (this means both the RD of the “pranking” residence hall and the RD of the residence hall being “pranked”). Hazing is illegal and violators will be prosecuted. For more information on hazing please see the Hazing/Initiation Activities segment under the section entitled Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Laws. Any prank that violates local or federal law will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement department. All students involved in such pranks will be expected to comply with local and national law enforcement, and to provide appropriate restitution. Students are financially obligated for any damage incurred as a result of a prank. For more information on pranks, please see the Pranks segment under the section entitled Compliance with Local, State, and Federal Laws.

Extended Housing
The benefits of living in the Master’s owned and operated fully furnished apartments include the following: more space than traditional two-person dorm rooms; private bathrooms; kitchen; and the unique opportunity to be a gospel witness to the surrounding community while still living in a strong
Master’s community that is in close proximity to the main campus.

Each apartment contains one bed, mattress, desk, dresser, and desk chair for each student. Each apartment is furnished with one refrigerator provided by the college. The living room furniture is provided by the school and may not be moved out of the apartment (3-person couch, 2-person loveseat, 1-person chair, and wood coffee table). No extra furniture may be added due to space limitations and state fire code regulations except the following: (1) bookshelf (2) table and chairs (no fabric), (3) side tables, (4) TV stand, or (5) fire-code-approved office chairs (must have a tag on it that says “117” or “134”). Gas, electric, and trash pick-up are included in the pricing and no college meal plan is required. Internet, cable, and phone services are not provided. Residents have access to an on-site coin laundry room. The student is responsible for all apartment cleaning.

As part of the greater Master’s residential community, residents must comply with the following Residence Hall Policies: Guidelines and Procedures, General Residence Hall Policies, Pranks and Appropriate Activity, Guests and Visitors, Break Housing and Early Arrival, Fire Code Regulations, Pets and Animals, Room Care, Room Check-out, Room Keys, Bicycles, Entering a Student’s Room and Earthquake and Fire Procedure.

Extended housing residents are not automatically exempt from recording church and chapel attendance. Chapel exemption applications are available online for extended-campus residents with special situations. Application for exemption must be made prior to making the job or ministry commitment. Exemptions are granted on a semester-by-semester basis, so application for exemption must be filed each semester by the last day to add a class as stated by the Registrar’s Office. Allow two weeks for processing.

OFF-CAMPUS RESIDENCE POLICIES

The comprehensive education offered at The Master’s College is designed as a residential experience where students live and learn in a biblical community. However, we recognize that not everyone has the resources and opportunity to live in residence. It is our commitment to serve our commuter population with the same intentionality as our resident students. There are challenges to being a commuter student, but we are committed to help make your educational experience the best it can be.

Commuter Student Leadership
The RD of Commuter Life provides leadership for our commuter students. A Commuter Assistant is a student who volunteers through the SLS program to work with the RD to help minister to off-campus students.

Commuter Information
Commuter students may access The Master’s College website to find calendar events and special commuter events.
LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

STATEMENT ON SUBMISSION

God calls all believers to submit to the governing authorities of the land. Romans 13 says, “Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God…render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor” (vv. 1, 7). 1 Peter 2:17 says, “Honor all men; love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the King.” The Master's College considers all violations of state and federal law to be sin, and will call students to submit to all governing authorities.

The following are legal notices which apply to admissions and student conduct.

While every effort is made to provide accurate and up-to-date information, the College reserves the right to change, without notice, statements in the catalog concerning policies, academic offerings, rules of conduct, and charges for tuition, room and board.

The appropriate catalog, along with bulletins and student handbooks, determines student rights and duties with respect to the College. Matriculation constitutes an agreement by the student to abide by the rules, regulations, and policies of The Master’s College.

Accreditation materials may be reviewed in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

DISCRIMINATION POLICIES AND GRIEVANCES

General Statement
Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 together with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, require colleges “to adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of student complaints” alleging discrimination based upon age, gender, race, color, ethnic or national origin, qualified mental or physical disability, veteran status, or medical condition. Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the Office of the President, The Master’s College, 21726 Placerita Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA, 91321 or by phone at (661) 259-3540.

The Master’s College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, marital status, medical condition, veteran status, or any physical or mental disability for either employment or in any of the educational programs or activities it conducts. We are committed to practicing principles of equal opportunity and diversity in employment and admissions based upon Biblical principles. In conformance with various regulations, The Master’s College requires individuals (whether applicants or students) to identify specific requests for reasonable accommodations that may be necessary due to the existence of a qualified disability. Questions regarding discrimination or disabled student services should be addressed to The Master's College Office of Human Resources and Disability Services: 21726 Placerita Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91321-1200.

Because God’s Word commands us to live out God’s character, The Master’s College views discrimination as a violation of God’s law (Acts 10:34). As such, that matter will be handled in the same manner as other sins. Scripture commands us to be fervent in resolving conflict (Romans
12:18). Thus, resolutions in matters of discrimination will be addressed promptly.

**HIV and AIDS**

Consideration of the existence of AIDS or HIV will not be part of a student's initial admission decision. The College reserves the right to require HIV testing for a student known to have engaged in behavior considered to be “high risk” as determined by the Surgeon General of the United States. Any student who knows that they have contracted the HIV virus must report their condition in writing to the Vice President of Student Life. The College also reserves the right to deny a student’s acceptance if their medical condition requires hospitalization or specialized care or puts others at risk.

The Master’s College will allow students with HIV or AIDS full access to classroom building and College facilities including the gym, dining hall, and common areas as long as they are physically able and have no uncontrolled bodily discharge. It is expected that all students with HIV or AIDS will adhere to a lifestyle that prevents transmission of the virus. Any activity which intentionally endangers the health of other students will be considered cause for dismissal.

Decisions about housing students with HIV or AIDS in a residence hall will be made on a case-by-case basis. This decision will be made by the committee consisting of the Campus Nurse, the Associate Deans of Students, and the Vice President of Student Life.

**Single Mothers**

The College affirms the priority of the family and seeks to see this priority upheld by its students. Because of this priority, the College believes that mothers of young children should not be full-time students. Because the needs of a child change with age, there will be times single mothers are more available to complete academic courses. Therefore, discretion is applied in each individual circumstance. The Deans reserve the right to deny full-time admission to single mothers. To determine what is appropriate for the individual, applicants must meet with an Associate Dean of Students and make appeal based on special circumstances.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS**

**Sexual Harassment**

The Master’s College does not condone any form of sexual harassment whether verbal, physical or both. Any misconduct in this area is a violation of the policy of the College as well as a violation of California Civil Code 51.9 and California Penal Codes 646.9 and 653m. In the event of any possible harassment, school officials will first talk to the parties involved (and other parties that might be witnesses) and determine the truthfulness of the situation. If harassment has indeed occurred, appropriate disciplinary action (including removal from campus, suspension or dismissal) will be taken against the person found to have violated this policy.

**Hazing/Initiation Activities**

The Master’s College recognizes the danger associated with initiation activities when students behave in a manner that produces harm or injury to another student. This includes acts resulting in physical injury, public humiliation, emotional trauma, and/or sexual harassment. It is the policy of the College that such activities are not promoted or allowed by any student groups or athletic teams. Students who participate in activities determined to be hazing will be disciplined according to the determination of the Deans. Hazing is considered a serious violation and recognized as a criminal offense according to California Penal Code 245.6, as amended by the California Senate Bill 1454,
effective January 1, 2007. Students are urged to abstain from any activity that may be considered a violation of this standard.

Pranks
The Master’s College recognizes the danger associated with inappropriate pranks. It is the policy of the College that any prank which results in physical injury, public humiliation, emotional trauma, and/or sexual harassment is not promoted or allowed by any student group or individual. Students participating in a prank that is harmful or dangerous to others will be disciplined according to the determination of the Deans. Any prank that violates local or federal law will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement department. All students involved in such pranks will be expected to comply with local and national law enforcement, and to provide appropriate restitution. Students are encouraged to abstain from any activity that may be considered a violation of this standard.

Following are citations from various California Penal Codes which would have relevance to potential pranks. This is by no means an exhaustive list of laws related to proper conduct, rather a reminder of the standard that the United States federal system has instituted for the safety and security of all.

California Penal Codes 12301, 12303, and 12303.3 prohibit the construction, possession, and detonation of destructive devices, which would include but not be limited to dry ice bombs and any projectile containing any explosive or incendiary material or any other chemical substance. Possession of a destructive device is considered a misdemeanor, and possession, explosion, or igniting, with intent to injure or intimidate is considered a felony.

According to California Penal Codes 240-245, assault is defined as the unlawful attempt with present ability to commit a violent injury on the person of another. Assault is considered a misdemeanor. Battery is defined as any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another, and is considered a misdemeanor or a felony depending on the degree of injury.

Breaking and entering is considered trespassing. Trespassing with the intent to commit theft or any malicious intent is considered a felony, according to California Penal Codes 459 and 460. In addition, California Penal Code 466 states that possession of certain types of tools associated with burglary is considered a misdemeanor offense.

California Fire Code
The California Fire Code as found in the California Code of Regulations governs the decorating and use of all residence hall spaces, in particular CCR 3.08 and CCR 3.19 as seen below:

California Code of Regulations- Title 19: CCR 3.08- In every Group A, E, I, R-1 & D Occupancies all drapes, hangings, curtains, drops and all others decorative material, including Christmas Trees, that would tend to increase the fire and panic hazard shall be made from a non-flammable material, or shall be treated and maintained in a flame retardant condition by means of a flame retardant solution or process approved by the State Fire Marshal. Exits, exit lights, fire alarm sending stations, wet standpipe hose cabinets, and fire extinguisher locations shall not be concealed, in whole or in part, by any decorative material.

California Code of Regulations- Title 19: CCR 3.19- Every building or portion of a building shall be maintained in a neat, orderly manner, free from any condition which would create a fire or life-hazard or a condition which would add to or contribute to the rapid spread of fire, and on exiting the building during a fire or other disaster.
Suicide
The College reserves the right to require a student to seek a medical examination, counseling assessment and treatments or ongoing counseling to maintain student status. The College recognizes the concern of parents for the welfare of their sons and daughters and reserves the right to communicate with parents about counseling or treatments required to meet emergencies or to maintain student status. Please see our policy regarding counseling below.

Any talk of or attempt at suicide as well as any other self-destructive behavior will be taken seriously. The College staff strives to create trusting and caring relationships with students. In the event a student begins to struggle with issues related to suicide, eating disorders, self-mutilation, or any self-destructive behavior, we would request they confide in someone so that they could receive the help and counsel needed.

Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages
The Master’s College asks that all students abstain from possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages. Students under the age of 21 are prohibited from purchasing an alcoholic beverage, or from possessing an alcoholic beverage in a public location according to California Codes 25658 and 25662.

Counseling
Counseling, as broadly defined here, means the sharing of and responding to personal information in the context of interpersonal relationships. Because trust is such a critical element in productive counseling, such personal information will be treated by the administration, faculty and staff with the highest level of respect and discretion. The Residence Life staff and faculty are ready to assist students whenever needed.

Strict confidentiality will be broken only in keeping with the pattern delineated in Matthew 18:15-20 or when life or safety are involved. In this context, the counselor is morally, ethically and biblically required to involve others in the restoration process. In the event that repentance is still not forthcoming, the counselee will eventually be held accountable to the administration for violations of policy.

Missing Resident Policy
In the interest of student safety, The Master’s College complies with the following Missing Person Policy as required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.

Missing Students Policy
We consider a resident student to be a “missing person” if the person’s absence interrupts their usual pattern of behavior (i.e., not attending class, not eating meals in the cafeteria, not sleeping in their room) and there is concern that the missing person is a victim of unusual circumstances or foul play.

Students who are under the age of eighteen, who are not emancipated are considered minors. In the event that such persons are determined missing, the College will notify a custodial parent or legal guardian in addition to the student’s designated contact. With students who are over eighteen, the College will contact the person who the student has designated as their emergency contact. All students will be given the opportunity each academic year to designate an individual or individuals to be contacted by the College in the event that they have been determined to be missing. This designation will remain in effect unless changed by the student.
Procedures

Any individual who has reason to believe a resident student is missing should notify the Vice President of Student Life and the Director of Campus Security as soon as possible.

- Upon Notification from any entity that a student may be missing, several resources will be used to assist in locating the student.
  These resources may be used in any order and combination:
  - Security may search on campus public locations to find the student (library, cafeteria, dorm lounges, etc.).
  - Security may issue an ID picture to assist in identifying the missing student.
  - Information Services may be asked to look up email logs for last login and use of Master’s email system.
  - The student’s designated contact will be officially notified by the Vice President of Student Life, or designee, within 24 hours (or as soon as possible) after the student has been determined by the College officials to be missing.
  - The Vice President of Student Life, or designee, will gather information from the individual reporting the student missing as well as the resident’s roommate, family, faculty members, known friends or acquaintances to determine who the student may have last been seen with, what they were wearing, additional contact information, as well as other distinguishing information (i.e. class or work schedule, vehicle description, information about the student’s well being as of late).
  - Campus staff will be notified and included in the information gathering to determine what has happened to the student (i.e. Residence Life Staff, professors, coaches, etc.).
  - Within 24 hours (or as soon as possible) after determining the student is missing, the Campus Security Office will provide local law enforcement with a Missing Person’s Report. If there is any indication of foul play, the local police department will be contacted for assistance immediately.
ACADEMIC POLICY

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the responsibility of the faculty member to pursue suspected incidents of academic dishonesty occurring within his courses. If a student is found to be guilty of cheating, plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, the faculty member is required to document the incident in writing and submit the report to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The first documented incident of academic dishonesty will result in the student failing the assignment or the course at the instructor’s discretion, depending on the severity of the incident. Any subsequent documented offense of academic dishonesty by the student (regardless of whether it occurs in the same or any other course taken by the student at the College) will result in automatic failure of the course and expulsion of the student from the College for a minimum of one academic year.

TEACHING CONTENT WHICH MAY CONTAIN POTENTIALLY OBJECTIONABLE ELEMENTS

In a Christian liberal arts college, its breadth of curriculum requires that subjects of study will sometimes involve content containing morally objectionable elements. These are identified as “profanity, scatological realism, erotic realism, sexual perversion, lurid violence, occultism, and erroneous religious or philosophical assumptions.” Such elements may be encountered in many courses, such as those in literature, journalism, history, art, music, psychology, sociology, and communication media. They may also occur in any subjects in which “erroneous religious or philosophical assumptions” are studied in themselves or are contrasted with truth.

It is the goal of the faculty of The Master’s College to achieve a biblical approach to morally objectionable elements if and when they occur in the course of study. This means that faculty will be neither “inclusivists” nor “exclusivists,” but will follow biblical guidelines for encountering and dealing with such elements. For a detailed discussion of this biblical approach, the reader should consult the article on “A Biblical Approach to Objectionable Elements (Christian Educational Censorship)” which can be found at the following Internet website: http://www.bjup.com/resources/articles/objectionable_elements.html
DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM

The purpose of the disciplinary system of The Master’s College is to promote personal godliness and to maintain an atmosphere conducive to maximum academic and spiritual growth. We ask that all students adhere to all school policies based upon their own integrity. Because each student has agreed to follow both Biblical Mandates and College Policies, violations of either will be considered a sin issue. The process for confronting sin prescribed in Matthew 18 will be followed in each case (see the distinctive of Sanctifying Relationships above). If a student is found to be unrepentant after repeated violations of Biblical Mandates or College Policies he or she will meet with the Deans. The Deans will determine at that point what disciplinary action will be taken. The Deans, consistent with these commitments, maintain regular hours for counseling, and students are encouraged to take advantage of that opportunity. Likewise, the Resident Directors and faculty and staff are ready to help. Disciplinary action may take one of the following forms:

Church/Chapel Probation
Students exceeding their allotted absences in church or chapel by one will be placed on church/chapel probation for the remainder of the semester and must meet with their Resident Director. Those students who exceed their allotted absences by two will be subject to disqualification during the following semester and must meet with the Deans. Any student acquiring three misses beyond what is allowed is subject to immediate disqualification and will be required to meet with the Deans who will determine the individual’s continuing status as a student.

If a student accumulates two church probations or two chapel probations during the course of their duration as a student at The Master’s College, the student will be subject to disqualification during the following semester and must meet with the Deans. If a student accumulates three church or three chapel probations during the course of their duration as a student at The Master’s College, the student will be subject to immediate disqualification and will be required to meet with the Deans who will determine the individual’s continuing status as a student.

Fines
Fines may be levied by the Resident Assistants, Resident Directors, or the Deans. Fines are administered to serve as a deterrent to violators, to teach students that inappropriate behavior has consequences, and to allow the community to be compensated for violations of community standards. A list of fines will be published in the residence halls at the beginning of each school year.

Work Details
Work details may be assigned by the Deans in an effort to correct inappropriate behavior or restore damage to school properties. Such details may be given in conjunction with other disciplinary action.

Academic Probation
Students who are on academic probation or academic monitoring are required to sign an academic probation contract and meet eight times during the semester with the Academic Counselor as a condition of enrollment for the duration of their probation or monitoring. The student’s Resident Director will be notified of the student’s status on academic probation or academic monitoring and will be invited into the community of accountability. Failure to sign and return the academic probation or monitoring contract and/or failure to schedule a first appointment with the Academic Counselor by the date assigned by the Academic Counselor will be counted as one absence for an academic counseling session. Those students who accumulate two absences for academic counseling sessions are subject to disqualification during the following semester and must meet with the Deans. Any student acquiring three absences is subject to immediate disqualification and will be required to
meet with the Deans who will determine the individual’s continuing status as a student.

**Student Probation**
Student Probation is notification that the student’s continued College attendance is in jeopardy and under evaluation. If the student violates the terms of his Student Probation, the Deans reserve the right to dismiss the student immediately.

**Social Suspension**
Social Suspension excludes the student from aspects of Student Life, including leadership, co-curricular, and social activities, which would entail but not be limited to music and athletic events.

**Suspension**
Students who have been placed on suspension must leave campus for a period of time determined by the Deans’ staff. A student is not allowed to attend class, field-trips, or participate in any co-curricular programs, including but not limited to participation or attendance of music and athletic events. Homework which is due on the days a student is suspended must be submitted to the professor in advance of the class session in order to receive credit. The student will receive a zero for any test, quiz, or work done in class that day.

**Reapplication Status**
At the end of each semester the Student Life Staff reserves the right to review a student’s files and evaluate his or her spiritual, academic, and social progress and identification with the overall goals and philosophy of the College. Students who have experienced difficulty in those areas may be asked to reapply after a minimum of one full year.

When a student is placed on reapplication status a student is asked to reapply, the following process will be followed:

- The student will not be allowed on campus for any activity or event without prior permission from the Deans’ Office.
- The student will be allowed to re-apply to the College at the Dean’s discretion after a minimum of one full year if the following process is pursued by the student:
  - Functioning commitment to the local church.
  - The student submits to an accountability relationship with a staff member at his/her local church or another appropriate person agreed to by the Dean.
  - The student demonstrates a consistent pattern of Christian living evidencing a sincere repentance.

**Dismissal**
When expelled from the College, all current educational activities are terminated immediately and may not be resumed. When a student is dismissed or asked to withdraw from the College, the following process will be followed:

- The student will not be allowed on campus for any activity or event without prior permission from the Deans or the Vice President of Student Life.
- The student is responsible to move out of their room by 5:00pm of the day they are informed of the Deans’ decision.
- The student remains financially responsible for the balance of their student account. If the student’s account is paid in full, then the schedule for refunds listed in the catalog will be followed, using the date of dismissal as the determining date.
- The student will receive the notation of “W” (Withdrawn) for all courses the student is enrolled in that semester.
The student will be allowed to re-apply to the College at the Deans’ discretion after a minimum of one full year if the following process is pursued by the student:

- Functioning commitment to the local church.
- The student submits himself to an accountability relationship with a staff member at their local church or other appropriate person agreed to by the Dean.
- The student demonstrates a consistent pattern of Christian living evidencing a sincere repentance.

**Council on Student Conduct**

The COSC reviews cases presented by the Vice President of Student Life with a view toward evaluating student behavior within the framework of purposes and policies and to initiate action deemed necessary to address the student’s comprehensive spiritual development. This committee consists of the Vice President of Student Life, the Associate Deans, two faculty members, the President of the ASB, the ASB Chaplain, and the student’s Resident Director and Resident Assistant.

A meeting of the Student Conduct Committee in no way resembles a trial, because the decision to enact formal discipline has been established prior to the meeting. After hearing and discussing the situation, the committee decides on the best course of action for helping the individuals involved. The Vice President of Student Life reserves the right to discern between any disciplinary action he would initiate himself or actions he would refer to the committee.

**Student Appeals Committee**

Should a student’s conduct put his or her standing with the school in jeopardy because of violations of student policy, the issue shall be brought before the Associate Deans and the Vice President of Student Life. If, after their careful consideration of the issue, they conclude it is in the best interests of the individual and the College for the student to be dismissed, it is in their power to take such action.

Should the student wish to appeal that decision, he or she may do so through the Vice President of Student Life within two business days. The appeal must be made by the student in writing; appeals from outside parties will not be processed. An Appeals Committee will convene consisting of the Vice President of Student Life (non-voting), a faculty member (student’s choice), a staff member (student’s choice), ASB Chaplain, a Student Life senior staff member, the Director of Admissions, and if the appealing student desires, two character references of their choice may be provided to the committee (with no vote). A character reference may be anyone within the college family who would have information relevant to the issue on the appealing student’s behalf. The Vice President of Student Life may also invite any student or staff member with relevant information to provide testimony to the committee.

Once the committee has convened, the presiding officer will invite the appropriate Associate Dean into the meeting, along with the appealing student. The Associate Dean will be asked to state the issues, after which the appealing student will be given an opportunity to state his/her appeal. Character witnesses and additional testimonies will be invited to present relevant information by the Vice President of Student Life in due order. When all parties are satisfied that the issues have been clearly communicated and understood, the Associate Dean, appealing student, and any testimony or character witnesses will be asked to leave, although the committee may request the return of any individual testimony for further clarification. After any needed deliberation, the committee will come to a decision. Both the Associate Dean and the student in question will then be asked to return. If the committee was not in agreement with the dismissal decision, they will give their reasoning and recommend a change in the decision. If the committee upholds the Associate Dean’s decision, no further provision for appeal is available.
APPENDICES

The following appendices are meant to provide additional information about specific sections of the Student Handbook.

APPENDIX 1
Discernment in Christian Liberty

“There are three ways in which the law may be abused. First, by self-righteous hypocrites who fancy that they can be justified by the Law. Secondly, by those who claim that Christian liberty exempts a Christian from the observance of the Law. . . . Thirdly, the Law is abused by those who do not understand that the Law is meant to drive us to Christ. When the Law is properly used its value cannot be too highly appraised. It will take me to Christ every time.”

“God has given poor consciences, which lie captive under the accusation and curse of the law, the comfort of spiritual liberty. But the devil interprets this as liberty of the flesh and creates nothing but confusion and disorder. As a result, his dupes want to be free in everything, lords of all government, and rulers of everybody. In this way the devil sanctimoniously disguises himself under the semblance of the Gospel and Christian Liberty and yet overthrows both the Gospel and Christian liberty.”

-Martin Luther

Believers must daily make decisions about issues that are not explicitly mentioned in God’s Word. At these times the believer must exercise discernment about what is God honoring. The following sections include help in thinking through how to make decisions in regards to Christian liberty in general and discuss several specific issues.

The following is taken from: “Thinking Through Gray Areas” by John MacArthur (excerpted from tape GC 80-D4, available from Grace to You (800) 554 7223).

Here are ten questions which help apply biblical principles to making decisions regarding Christian liberty:

Expedience
Will it be spiritually profitable? I Corinthians 6:12 says, “All things are lawful.” That is a true statement if you qualify the “all things.” Is murder lawful? No. Is lying lawful? No. Is stealing lawful? No. Is cursing God lawful? No. What we want to say is, all things that are lawful are lawful. Anything not unlawful is lawful. Anything in and of itself that is not a moral issue is lawful. It’s permissible.

We would have to say that TV in and of itself is not forbidden in the Bible. It’s not an evil thing. It’s a box full of wires and wood or plastic and glass. You plug it into the wall and the electricity goes through it, and there’s nothing moral about any of that. So anything that is not unlawful is in and of itself lawful. Yet Paul responded with this statement: “But all things are not profitable.”

The Greek word translated “profitable” is sumphero. It basically means “to bring together to your advantage.” Ask yourself, Will this be to my advantage? In context Paul was talking about spiritual advantage. I’m going to go to a movie. Is it going to profit me spiritually? Remember, we’re answerable to God for how we use our time.
On the other hand, will doing what I’m contemplating doing lead me into spiritual laziness, spiritual apathy, or spiritual indifference? Will it take me away from the things that are spiritual, and foster in my mind a concern about things that are fleshly? I was talking to someone the other day, and he said to me, “You know the basic problem with my wife’s spiritual life? She sleeps in every day. I can’t get her out of bed.” I said, “You think that’s her basic spiritual problem?” He replied, “Yes, because I know it’s not spiritually profitable for her to be undisciplined.”

Let’s call this principle Expedience. Is what you’re wondering about really expedient or to your advantage? After all, you need to be concerned about what’s best for you.

**Edification**

Will it build me up? Will it move me along a path of spiritual development? In I Corinthians 10:23 Paul says, “All things are lawful, but not all things edify.” The word translated “edify” (oikodomeo) basically means to build a house. In I Corinthians 14:26 Paul says, “Let all things be done for edification.” In II Corinthians 12:19, he says, “We do all for your upbuilding beloved.” In other words, “We do everything to build you up; we don’t do anything that won’t build you up.”

Look back at I Corinthians 9:24. Paul says, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.” The whole point of the race is to win. So what you need to do in your spiritual life is that which helps you win - that which is immediately profitable and that which in the long term sustains you in the race to bring victory. Verse 25 says “Everyone who competes in the games exercises control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” If you’re not a disciplined person, you will not succeed in athletics at any other than a mediocre level. The difference between an average athlete and a great athlete may be nothing more than a commitment through the process of discipline. If the world does that to obtain a corruptible crown, how much more we should do it to obtain an incorruptible crown?

What you have to ask yourself is, Will this build me up? Will it move me along the path of spiritual maturity where there is an increasing frequency of righteousness and a decreasing frequency of sin? I Thessalonians 4:4 says, “(Let) each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor.” We are to control our bodies, seeking that which will build them up.

**Excess**

Will it slow me down in the race? We picked up the race metaphor in I Corinthians 9. Let’s follow it a little further and ask, Will it slow me down in the race? Do I need this? Do I really need to add this baggage to my life? I have an evening free. I could sit down and watch responsible television. I could watch people answering questions about history on a game show and learn a little bit. I could take four hours and watch a cultural program. But I have to remind myself: I’m in a spiritual race - what am I going to do with those four hours to make me run faster to win the prize? Is this it? Maybe the answer is yes. Maybe you spent nine hours studying and need to relax. Well, God bless your relaxation. But, if you’ve done nothing but flake off for the last three weeks, another four hours off would be a spiritual disaster.

Hebrews 12:1 says “Lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Note the things you have to set aside: encumbrance and sin. Those are two different things. Encumbrances are anything that slows us down in the spiritual race. And this is not a sprint; this is a long-distance run.

It reminds me of when I ran the half mile for the first time in high school. Because I was a sprinter, I
ran the half mile like I ran the 100-yard dash. I was sensational for the first 120 yards; then it was total disaster for about a lap and three-quarters. If you’re going to run an endurance race effectively, you have to pace yourself and lay aside every encumbrance. And we are running an endurance race - the race of faith.

I remember that when a great Soviet sprinter who had won a gold metal in the Olympics came to Los Angeles a few years after the Olympics to run in a meet, he was defeated by a couple of Americans. When he was interviewed afterwards, he said he had gained too much weight. Now is weight evil? No, but if you’re going to run a 100-meter and you have a pothbelly, you’d better get rid of it. So you have to ask yourself, what is you’re after in life? An encumbrance is whatever weighs you down, diverts your priorities, takes your attention, sucks your energy, dampens your enthusiasm for the things of God, and retards the progress of your movement toward the goal. You have to get rid of it if you’re going to win.

My grandfather used to say to me, “Johnny, if you just do one thing right in your life, you’ll be ahead of most people.” So strip down and do one thing right. Just one. You can’t do everything, so you learn to narrow your focus. If you study the life of Christ, you’ll see how narrow His focus was - how He rid himself of all kinds of baggage that wouldn’t in and of itself have been wrong so He could clearly focus on what God had sent Him to do.

So you’re trying to attain a spiritual goal, progress along a path to the glory of God, get your ministry where it ought to be, use your spiritual gift, and please God with all your heart. Ask yourself, Is this thing necessary or does it retard the progress?

Enslavement
Will it bring me into bondage? Let’s go back to I Corinthians 6:12 again: “All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.” Do you know there are some people whose lives are controlled by things? There are people who shake visibly if they can’t get hold of a cigarette or a cup of coffee. This is a man created in the image of God - the king of the earth, the summum bonum of God’s creation: controlled by a pile of weeds or liquid. Ridiculous!

There are some people who, when they go home, walk in the door and go straight to the TV whether they want to or not. Their lives are controlled by it. Many are in bondage to soap operas.

There are people who are in bondage to physical exercise. If they can’t get out and do their jogging or lift their weights, they can’t make it.

Of course a very serious issue now is drugs. But do you know that drugs in and of themselves are not evil? Did you know that cocaine is not evil? Cocaine has never sinned. It never has. It just grows. Marijuana is not evil either.

My brother-in-law, an M.D., has studied curare. It’s what natives in South America extracted from a bush and used to tip their darts when shot from blowguns. The curare paralyzed their victim. In South America it was used to kill people, but my brother-in-law was developing it to be used as an anesthetic. You can go to the hospital and you’d better hope and pray that they give you drugs if you’re going to have surgery.

You see, the point is that in and of themselves, drugs are not an evil thing, but when you can’t survive the day without sticking a needle into your arm, you’ve allowed yourself to be controlled by them. That’s a severe case of bondage.
Some people are controlled by hamburgers, or even ice cream. Amazing! Some people have to have chocolate. Can you imagine that? It’s harmless stuff yet it can control men.

Years ago I learned that there are some things I have a right to do, but I don’t do them because I don’t want to train myself to be dependent on them. So there are some things that I would like to do, and I just say no, I’m not going to do that.

Do you know there are some people, and I shudder to think about this, who can’t survive without music being on? It’s true. Our whole society needs to shut off music, and that’s what God is going to do some day (Revelation 18:22). Do you know what will happen to the world when there’s no music? People will panic! How will they drown out the reality of life without their music? We have a society of people who are addicted to such things.

There are some people who are addicted to clothes. They already have a closet full of clothes. But shopping is a compulsion to some. There’s nothing wrong with clothes unless you’re a slave to them. So you have to ask the question, “Will this enslave?”

**Equivocation**

Will it hypocritically cover my sin? I Peter 2:16 says, “Act as free men and do not use your freedom as a covering for your evil.” You have on this nice cloak and it says “Christian Liberty,” but sin is underneath it.

One person might take this approach to movies: “I’m free to go to a movie - I’m free. I’m mature in Christ. Everyone knows there is immorality in the world, so what’s wrong with going to a movie?” So you go to a movie and that expression of your freedom may be nothing more than a mask you wear over your lust. It’s using your liberty as a cloak for your evil. Galatians 5:13 says the same thing: “You were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh.” Yes, you’re free to use your freedom to build you up and strengthen you, but not as a cloak for your evil.

**Encroachment**

Will it violate my conscience? Romans 14 most directly speaks to this question. First, we need to establish the background: Some in the early church understood their freedom in Christ. On the other hand, some new converts out of Judaism were still holding to the Sabbath, the dietary laws, and ceremonial rituals. Those who fully understood their liberties could easily offend those who were not yet free in their own minds.

Romans 14:2-3 says “One man has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. Let not him that eats regard with contempt him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats.” That’s the principle. Don’t condemn each other for your freedoms or lack thereof. A strong believer shouldn’t condemn a weak believer, who because of his conscience doesn’t feel he can do such and such. Neither should a weak believer condemn a strong believer if he in his conscience feels free to do something that is not forbidden in Scripture. So, don’t despise the weak for his weakness, or the strong for his strength. Verse 3 says, “God has accepted him.” Since God receives them both, we need to receive them both as well.

Verse 4 says, “Who are you to judge the servant of another?” You can’t judge someone who works for someone else. To his own master, he stands or falls. And everyone’s master is God.
Verse 5 says, “One man regards one day above another, another regards every day alike.” Some are Sabbatarians and some are not. “Let each man be fully convinced in his own mind” (v. 5).

Ask yourself this question: Will it violate my understanding of the lordship of Christ? If it will, then it will violate your conscience. That is a serious matter because your conscience is your self-judging faculty. It is the little voice that says, “Don’t do that” or assures you that something is right.

Your conscience can be trained to do right, or it can be trained to do wrong. It is only a flywheel; the engine is the mind. The conscience responds to the mind. If you train yourself to ignore your conscience, you will deaden it. You’ll get what I Timothy 4:2 refers to as a conscience seared with a hot iron - scar tissue that’s insensitive. Whatever you do, don’t cultivate an insensitive conscience.

Romans 14:7-9 says, “Not one of us lives to himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and the living.” That establishes the lordship of Christ. We are to live to please the Lord, for He is our Sovereign Master.

There was a book written a few years ago called Decision Making and the Will of God. I don’t know whether you’ve seen it. It’s a great big, thick book; 450 pages, on God’s will. The intent of the book, basically, is to say there is no subjective leading of the Holy Spirit in the matter of the will of God. The main thesis of the book is that there is no specific will of God in your life which the author calls “the dot.” He’s trying to get rid of that “dot” theory: There’s one place to be, one person to marry, one decision in life about career, one school to go to, and so forth and so on. A very narrow view, but in reacting the other way, what he comes up with is this: If there isn’t a scripture verse that speaks of the issue, you’re free to do whatever you want. The problem with that is, you’ve just eliminated the subjective ministry of the Spirit of God. Part of the subjective ministry of the Spirit of God, which has myriad of examples in Scripture, is through the conscience. So learn to listen to your conscience, or some day you’ll be sad and wake up and realize that the voice of conscience is not as loud as you would wish it to be to restrain you from evil things.

In I Corinthians 10:25-29, three times Paul refers to doing this or that for conscience’s sake. It is very important to maintain a clear conscience. Let’s call that principle the principle of encroachment. When you do what you believe in your own heart violates the lordship of Christ, you have encroached on His territory.

Second Corinthians 5:10 tells us we’ll stand before the judgment seat of Christ that we may be recompensed for what we’ve done whether good or worthless. But it isn’t only what we’ve done that will be judged. First Corinthians 4:5 says, “Do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

Ultimately before the Lord, sin will be a very clear-cut issue. In the matter of gray areas, you will be judged on the basis of your motive. If you have a weaker brother who says, “I would never run a lap on Sunday. I wouldn’t violate the Sabbath,” he will be commended by the Lord if his motive was a desire to be submissive to the lordship of Christ. Pure motives speak of the integrity of a person’s heart.

The spectrum of Christian behavior in the gray-area range is very broad. Since they are non-moral things in and of themselves, the criteria by which God evaluates your doing them or not doing them is the motive of your heart. If you do or don’t do something because you believe it would violate the
Lord, that’s a good motive. But if you say to yourself, “I’m going to do it anyway, even though in my heart I believe it would dishonor Him,” then you have willfully dishonored Him with your motive even though the act itself didn’t dishonor Him. That’s a very important principle - the principle of encroachment.

**Example**

Will it help other Christians by its example? Will what I do, if seen, strengthen or encourage others?

I could say, for example, I have the freedom to drink wine. But if I were to do that and someone said, “John MacArthur drinks; it must be okay for me to drink” and that individual became an alcoholic, my choice has not been helpful to him.

Romans 14:13 says “not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.” You would never want to do anything that, if followed, would lead some other brother into sin or into grief, anxiety, and guilt.

Verse 15 says, “Do not destroy [Gk. apolumi] with your food him for whom Christ died.” Apolumi has the idea of ruination, of devastating someone’s spiritual development because you did something, they saw you do it, they did it, and it devastated them because they couldn’t handle it.

You never want to do anything that will lead another person astray - if he says, “I can’t do that,” don’t force him to do it. Be careful what example you set. That really puts a tremendous burden on you to walk circumspectly and to be thoughtful.

In verse 20, Paul says, “Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food.” All believers are the work of God, and the last thing you and I ever want to do is tear down what God is trying to build up. Paul closes out in verses 22 and 23 by telling us not to flaunt our liberty. That’s the principle of example.

**Evangelism**

Will it lead others to Christ? We skipped over a little section in Romans 14 purposely. Verses 16-18 say “Do not let what is for you a good thing to be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking; but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.” You have to think about the testimony that you have - even outside the family of the redeemed. Will it lead someone to Christ?

In I Corinthians 10:27-30 you have a perfect illustration of that. Let’s say you’re a Christian - you’ve just been saved out of paganism. You used to worship in an idolatrous temple that represents everything vile and evil. Now you go to dinner at the home of an unbeliever with a Christian friend. The host serves you meat from the very temple out of which you’ve been saved - meat offered to idols. And you just can’t bring yourself to eat that stuff. Like so many people converted out of alcoholism, who now hate alcohol, or out of rock music, who despise the very sound of it, you can’t touch it.

Now let’s focus on the other Christian. He too has been saved from an idolatrous background, but has had the chance to realize that an idol is nothing (I Corinthians 8:4-6). Should he eat the meat to avoid offending the non-Christian host or not eat to avoid offending his young Christian friend.

Do you know what Paul says to do? Don’t eat. It’s important that the host see your clear conscience and the love you have for your brother because the most convincing witness for evangelism is the love that we share. That is what the Lord said in John 13:35: “By this all men will know that you are
My disciples, if you have love for one another.” The world aches to see that kind of loving character, pure conviction, and concern for each other.

Emulation
Will it be consistent with Christ-likeness? Is this something Jesus would do? This is a very important question. I John 2:6 says, “The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.” Let’s call that the principle of emulation. We want to emulate Christ. Would Jesus do it? Frankly, that question may be the only question you need to ask.

Exaltation
Will it bring glory to God? I Corinthians 10:31, “Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” The context is Christian liberty, the weaker and the stronger, and all things we’ve been talking about. We’re to do all to God’s glory and “give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God” (v. 32). In verse 33 Paul concludes, “Just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many that they may be saved.” That’s one of the scriptures that highlights the point of evangelism. In restricting your liberty on any point, you do it so that people can be saved and that God may be glorified. Let’s call that the principle of exaltation.

Here is the summary of questions to ask yourself:
Expedience – Will it be to my spiritual advantage?
Edification – Will it build me up?
Excess – Will it slow me down in the race?
Enslavement – Will it bring me to bondage?
Equivocation – Will it be covering for my sin?
Encroachment – Will it go against what I understand to be the lordship of Christ?
Example – Will it set a helpful pattern for others to follow?
Evangelism – Will it lead others to Christ?
Emulation – Will it be like Christ?
Exaltation – Will it glorify God?

Conclusion
• Live as a citizen of the kingdom. You do not have to earn or merit God’s favor. He has removed the penalty for your sin. Enter into your relationship with God freely.
• Live as a slave to righteousness. Change your life orientation. You have been set free from the obligation to sin.
• Live as a lover of others. Be an example of God’s love by serving others as Christ served us. Incarnate the Gospel.
APPENDIX 2
Modesty and the Christian Woman

The following is taken by permission from Dr. Lisa Tatlock, published by Moody Press in 2004.

“Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness.”
I Timothy 2:9-10 NASB

While there are many principles in scripture to consider when selecting clothes, there seems to be one principle that serves as an umbrella for all others — the principle of modesty. If I do not violate the principle of modesty, I generally will not violate the other principles seen in scripture which we apply to clothing. For example, looking back over a few of the principles from our previous list –

• Modesty allows me to select what is proper, moderate, and not extreme in style.
• Modesty allows for fashionable clothes - beautiful in style, materials, color, or workmanship.
• Modesty reflects I have implemented discretion in my clothing choices.
• Modesty allows me to reflect biblical femininity (others know I am a woman).
• Modesty allows my character to remain the focus by not drawing attention to any specific part of my physical body.
• Modesty in the quantity of clothes helps me practice good stewardship.
• Modesty protects my current and/or potential relationship with my spouse.
• Modesty prevents me from being a stumbling block to my brothers or sisters in Christ.
• Modesty will separate me from an ungodly society.

As you can see, practicing the principle of modesty is important because it helps you carry out other principles in scripture related to clothing selection. What exactly does it mean to be modest? Let’s look at I Timothy 2:9-10 to answer this question. Paul is addressing several doctrinal issues, including the behavior of women in the church. In this passage women are told to adorn themselves with proper clothing. “Adorn” is from the word kosmeo, from which we get our English word “cosmetic.” It means “to arrange,” “to put in order,” or “to make ready.” The first lesson we see about dressing modestly is that as Christian women we do need to give thought to our appearance. Our appearance should reflect that we have thoughtfully selected our clothes and carefully prepared our outer appearance. The term “proper clothing” communicates that everything about the woman is prepared to worship God - her clothes and attitudes (or another way to say this is that both the inner and outer woman are prepared to worship). One author puts it this way, “the well-ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life, uttering indeed and expressing itself in the outward conversation.” John MacArthur in his commentary on I Timothy explains this passage by stating, “A woman must arrange herself appropriately to join God’s people as they worship. Part of that important preparation involves the outside, the wearing of proper clothing. Proper translates kosmio, which like kosmeo, derives from the noun kosmos. Kosmos is often translated “world,” but it really means “order,” or “system.” It is the antonym of “chaos.” Katastole (clothing) encompasses not only the clothing itself, but also the look - the whole demeanor. Women are to come to corporate worship ready to face the Lord. They must not come in slovenly disarray or personal display because of an unbecoming wardrobe or demeanor. There is a place for lovely clothes that reflect the humble grace of a woman, as evidenced in Proverbs 31:22, “Her clothing is fine linen and purple.” Proper adornment on the outside reflects a properly adorned heart.

Paul goes on to identify specific ways women in the church were drawing attention to themselves rather than reflecting the principle discussed above (being prepared to worship the Lord). He
mentions braided hair, gold, pearls, and costly garments (verse 9). He is not forbidding these practices or adornments, but simply using them to illustrate how women were drawing more attention to themselves, rather than to the Lord. Women still struggle today with making good choices about what to wear. We may not wear braided hair, gold, or pearls—but we could substitute any form of extreme, indecent, lavish, or expensive fashion from our current society and we would become just like the women Paul was addressing—women who draw attention to themselves rather than their character (character which should reflect a humble godliness).

The words modestly and discreetly further define a Christian woman’s attitude towards her clothing (verse 9). Aidos is the word used for modestly. It refers to a woman’s humility and her concern for others—concern that she would not cause another to sin (the temptation to lust because of how she is dressed). “Modestly” indicates that she is very sensitive to the temptations of other people – so much so that it impacts how she dresses. She carefully chooses her clothes so she does not become a stumbling block to others (Matthew 18:6-10). The word “discreetly” simply reinforces this concept of being sensitive to how our dressing impacts others. Discreetly means self-control. Self-control can be viewed in two ways—self-control over our own sexual passions and self-control so we do not cause another to sin because of our behavior (or how we are dressed). The lesson we learn from this is that our personal preferences for clothing styles is secondary to our concern for others. Fashion does not dictate what I choose to wear; my character dictates what I wear. In other words, fashion preferences are not wrong as long as they do not compromise our character.

Paul ends this part of his discussion on women by emphasizing that a woman’s good works will be what she is known for, rather than her expensive fashions (verse 10). Her “good works” are another indicator of her character. There must be consistency when comparing appearance and character if a woman claims to be godly. Selecting proper clothing allows your godly character to be emphasized rather than your physical body. To summarize, modesty is a command for Christian women so they will draw attention to their Lord rather than to their bodies. Secondly, modesty is critical for Christian women to embrace because they are members of a community—a community of believers. Christian women dress modestly so they will not become a stumbling block to other believers; this is more important to a godly woman than being fashionable.

How do we know the specific type of garments that are modest (e.g. how short is too short, how low is too low, how tight is too tight)? There is an element of modesty that is tied to cultural definitions or personal preferences. For example, a hundred years ago it was considered very immodest to reveal ankles and calves! I would encourage you to pray through each of the scriptures we have discussed and ask the Lord to reveal if there are areas you need to change in your dressing. If your heart is tender and teachable, I am confident the Lord will give you a peace or lack of peace over your clothing choices. Also, you can do the following practical steps to discern what is modest:

- Ask a godly dad, brother, or husband his opinions. Men respond to the visual and are impacted by women’s clothing differently; Christian men who love us will be honest with us when we seek their advice. Listen to their counsel.
- Sit in front of a mirror and observe what others see, for example:
  - bend over to check how revealing your necklines are;
  - sit down and cross your legs to check shorts and skirts;
  - bend over to see how high your skirt moves up;
  - take a large step to check skirt slits, etc.
- Ask yourself what do you want men to see who are NOT going to be your husband?
  - Are you dressing to maintain your sexual purity?
  - Are you visually preserving yourself for your husband?
- Ask yourself if you are willing to defer your preferences out of love for others – evaluate
why you dress the way you do.

• Do you give priority to being “in style” over biblical principles?
• Do you follow fashion at all cost?
• Have you reviewed scripture to identify principles related to clothing (as we discussed earlier in the chapter)? Ask yourself if you are violating any of these principles.

Finally, I would encourage you to “err” on the side of modesty—if there is a potential to becoming a stumbling block to another individual or potential to offend another believer, avoid the clothing completely—as we would say in our everyday conversations “don’t even go there girl!” A godly woman defers her preferences (and yes, even rights to wear certain clothes) because she is more concerned about others. This principle can be seen in I Corinthians 10:23-24, “all things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor”—this includes how we dress (for further study of this principle see I Corinthians 6:12-20; Galatians 5:13-25; Philippians 2:1-11).

When it comes to making choices about what entertainment we will participate in, there are many factors to consider. The content of the entertainment should weigh heavily in the decision. We recognize that the issues of language, nudity, or vulgarity are only elements of a non-Christian worldview. It is also important to consider the impact your entertainment choice will have on those around you. The level of volume may need to be adjusted for a studying roommate, or the content may not be appropriate for certain age groups or people with certain backgrounds. We need to love others even while making choices in regards to entertainment. The use of time is the hidden cost of entertainment. Before choosing to do something, we should always consider how much time it will cost and whether or not it is worth the price.
APPENDIX 3
Restoration

Questions about restoration and repentance:

Do I have to have a relationship with a sinning brother beyond the casual “hello” before I become involved?
No. Obviously it is better to know the person well, but it is not necessary. By confessing Christ, you are in relationship to every other believer. It is Christ’s reputation at stake. Your involvement with a sinning brother comes as a result of God’s command regarding the importance of restoration. Scripture nowhere limits it to believers who have achieved a certain level of friendship. Rather, knowledge of a brother’s sin is the determining factor. If you know of the sin, you are responsible to seek that brother’s restoration.

What if I have sinned in the same area in the not-too-distant past? Does that disqualify me from involvement in the restoration process?
It depends. Remember the “spiritual” are those who walk by the Spirit and have a life characterized by the fruit of the Spirit. If you have stumbled in a particular area in the recent past but your life during this year or semester has evidenced the fruit of the Spirit, you are probably not disqualified. You may even be better equipped to relate to the person because of your experience.

On the other hand, if your failure in that area was somewhat severe and the recovery period very brief, you may indeed be temporarily disqualified. The best policy under those circumstances might be to consult a third party (using only general terms and leaving the fallen brother unidentified) to help you determine your readiness for involvement.

What if I know of a brother in sin but am not qualified because my life isn’t characterized by the fruit of the Spirit?
The best approach in that case would be to go to the fallen brother with a gentle spirit and confirm your knowledge of his sin. If you have the facts straight, attempt to mutually select a third party who is qualified to lead in the restoration process. If the fallen brother is reluctant to go that route, then it is your responsibility to hold him accountable to initiate the process in a reasonable amount of time (several hours to a few days, depending on the sin) with a qualified brother. If that reasonable amount of time elapses and the fallen brother has not taken appropriate action, then you would need to take the facts to a qualified brother.

What should I do when a fallen brother is guilty of serious sins such as criminal acts, drunkenness, cheating, drugs, or sexual immorality?
Within our Christian community, you should first seek the counsel of one of the RAs, RDs, Deans, or members of the faculty. The Bible tells us that there is wisdom in a multitude of counselors (Proverbs 11:4). Seeking the counsel of others when working for the restoration of a brother is a good idea whether you are working in the context of a local church, a mission agency, or a Christian school. Again, the identity of the fallen brother should remain confidential as you need to relate only the facts of the situation and not the names of those involved.

What do I do when I know of a sin and more than one person is involved?
All those involved need to be restored. The question is how to go about it. In most cases it is wise to start with the person you know best or one you think is most likely to respond positively. The goal is to win one of the fallen brothers who can offer help restoring the others involved.
What if I go to my brother who is in sin, but he denies it?
This is where the principles of Matthew 18 come into play. Verse 15 says that if your brother listens to you, you have won him back. Verse 16 adds, “But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.” The idea here is that in bringing “one or two more,” the facts can be more clearly established. If the fallen brother still attempts to skirt or deny the issue, it becomes increasingly difficult as two or three loving brothers work to restore him. Verse 17 says, “If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.” The point in telling the church is so that anyone in the assembly who could help with restoration might be aware of the need. The Master’s College is not a church, so we attempt to bridge this principle into our Christian community as best we can. Legally, we cannot tell a person’s sin to the student body as you can in a church. We do, however, still want very much the restoration of the brother. If you have spoken to him yourself, having brought along one or two others to help, and there is still no repentance and restoration, it is best to bring the issue to one of the RDs or Deans. At this point, the level of accountability is very high and the possibility of gaining repentance and restoration much improved. Sometimes parents are brought into the picture at this point, and they too can work for restoration.

In the context of Christianity and life at The Master’s College, the words “I am sorry, please forgive me” are particularly relevant. They express a Christian’s repentance over some displeasing practice, act, or word. They may be voiced in private to the Lord or in response to the confrontation of an offended believer. Whatever the case, those words are meant to indicate a person’s heartfelt repentance. Unfortunately our actions don’t always measure up to our words. Many of us have expressed our sorrow to the Lord and others regarding poor behavior, and sometimes within days or even hours we are back at the same behavior again. In an effort to help you understand what you ought to mean when you say you are sorry and what the confronting Christian ought to expect when he has sought and secured those words, let us examine what constitutes true biblical repentance and what elements give indication of its presence.

The meaning of repentance.
In the Old Testament the Hebrew word commonly translated “to repent” means primarily to sigh, groan, lament, or grieve over one’s doings. Genuine repentance, according to the Old Testament, not only involves sorrow but always leads to a changed life. In the New Testament the word used for “repent” means primarily to change one’s mind about something. According to the New Testament, a change of action is one proof that there has been a change of mind.

The elements of true repentance.
1 Samuel 7:1-6 spells out at least five elements of true biblical repentance. These are helpful indicators we can use to evaluate the repentance of ourselves and others. Israel had lost the Ark of the Covenant, the symbol of God’s presence in their midst, because they had begun to treat it as an idol. After a period of more than twenty years without the Ark, during which they fell into sin, the Israelites were ready to repent. Verse 2 says, “It came about from the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim that the time was long, for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.” Samuel replied, “If you return to the Lord with all your heart, remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him alone; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines” (v. 3).

• Emotional sorrow. Note that Israel “lamented after the Lord” (v. 2). The verb refers to audible crying, which comes from emotional sorrow. True repentance is both preceded and accompanied by sorrow.

In both the Old and New Testaments we see a link between repentance and sorrow. Job 42:6 tells
us Job’s repentance was with “dust and ashes,” a Near-Eastern symbol of great grief and sorrow. Psalm 38:17-18 says that David’s repentance was associated with sorrow. According to Psalm 51:17, a “broken and contrite” heart characterizes repentance acceptable to God. In Isaiah 22:12 we see that God associates sorrow with repentance. Jonah 3:5-8 shows us that Ninevah’s true repentance was characterized by sorrow and grief. In Matthew 11:21 Jesus associates sorrow with repentance and in II Corinthians 7:9-10 Paul declares that godly sorrow precedes repentance.

However, there is a sorrow that does not indicate true repentance. Esau, though he evidenced tearful sorrow, did not truly repent. Judas, though feeling remorse (Matthew 27:3-5), did not truly repent. His was not godly sorrow but “the sorrow of the world,” which results in death (II Corinthians 7:10).

The godly sorrow of repentance is to center on our mistreatment of God (Psalm 51:4), the wrongness of the act committed (Psalm 51:4), humiliation of self (Job 42:6), and the consequence of sin (Psalm 38).

• Turning to the Lord. Samuel told the Israelites, “Return to the Lord with all your heart” (I Samuel 7:3). “Return” demands turning from something (in this case, idolatry and sin) and turning to something (in this case, God). True repentance involves a wholehearted and unreserved turning from one’s sin and an equally wholehearted seeking after God. There is no double-mindedness or secret longing for sin where there is genuine repentance. Godly repentance is literally “without regret” (II Corinthians 7:10).

• Turning from sin. Godly sorrow and an inward turning of the heart are to be evidenced by an outward break with sin. The physical objects representing the sin of the Israelites, the idols unto foreign gods, were to be removed and destroyed. In true biblical repentance, anything associated with one’s sin is removed and destroyed. A person is truly repentant when he outwardly breaks with his sin and makes no provision for returning to his sin.

• Making a commitment. Samuel further said, “Direct your hearts to the Lord” (v.3). The Hebrew term translated “direct” means “to fix,” “establish,” or “be firm.” The same word is used in Psalm 93:1 about the earth which is in a firmly established position. True repentance involves fixing one’s heart on the Lord. It is a resolve to honor your commitment to the Lord regardless of circumstances, pressures, or desires from within. A person who truly repents does not cave in, but is committed to doing that which honors God.

• Serving God. Samuel’s final word on repentance was to “serve Him alone” (v.3). When a person truly repents, his life will be characterized by service to God, and he will work toward advancing His kingdom. A repentant man will do things that reflect his repentance. “Alone” qualifies that service as rendered to God, as opposed to self or others, and speaks of the repentant person’s undivided allegiance toward God.

So for a Christian to say, “I am sorry, please forgive me,” and then not demonstrate the elements that characterize true repentance is not to repent at all. You must learn to examine yourself before you say you are sorry and to decide if you are willing to do all that is biblically required with those words. Although it is both difficult and time-consuming, true repentance is worth pursuing, for it honors God and results in the blessing of God (I Samuel 7:3).
APPENDIX 4
Media Ethics Policy Statement

All students are required to read www.masters.edu/mediaethicspolicy and will be held accountable for abiding by it.

APPENDIX 5
Campus Security Vehicle Code

All students are required to read the Security Codes and will be held accountable for abiding by them: www.masters.edu/security.