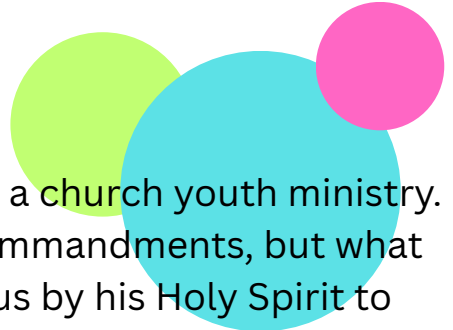


# 10 COMMANDMENTS FOR GREAT RELATIONSHIPS



These were originally written for a church youth ministry. Anyone can try to keep these commandments, but what we all need is God to transform us by his Holy Spirit to be more like his Son Jesus. Jesus ticks all the boxes below. If we're Christians, then God is making us more like Jesus, but you and I are both works in progress, not the finished article...

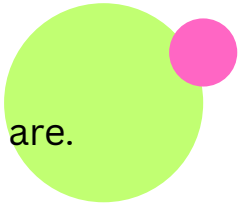
***We all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***


*2 Corinthians 3.18*



1. Be **Christian** if you're a Christian, not just nice! Encourage people with positive words about what God is doing in their lives and through them. Encourage people with truths about Jesus which impact their lives. *"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom..."* Colossians 3.16.
2. Be **full of GRACE**. Everyone is different but we are alike in having strengths and weaknesses, and better and worse days. No-one will feel and act the way you would in any given situation. Trust that we all want the best for each other. When people make mistakes, be gentle. Don't laugh at people. Don't judge people, even in fun. Forgive people. Love people. You would want them to do the same. *"Let your conversation be always full of grace."* Colossians 4.6 (For 'conversation' think social media too).
3. Be **consistent**. What do you talk like when you think no one else is listening? How do you behave online? Jesus is *'the truth'* (John 14.6). Who are you trying to impress?



4. Be faithful. Don't cheat. Don't ghost. You might think a kiss one night didn't mean you wanted a relationship with them, but 'everyone is different'. See point 5 below.
  5. Be **clear**. If someone has hurt you, tell them (Matthew 18.15-17). Notice v.15 & 16 come before v.17. When it comes to forgiving, note points 2 and 10. If you fancy someone and they're not in a relationship, find a way to tell them. If someone fancies you, and you don't feel the same, do the same. Be careful with sarcasm. 'You're fat/stupid/unfit/ugly/rubbish, only joking' could very easily (and I will say this slowly)... lead... to... disaster. Be warned with Proverbs 26.18-19.
  6. Be **yourself**. God made you who you are.
  7. Be **positive in speech**. Ephesians 4.29 vital for youth group and life. *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."* It doesn't say 'out of your mouths in public'! It doesn't say 'unwholesome talk about friends...' It doesn't say '...mouths (although social media is ok)'. 'You're ugly,' 'You're stupid,' 'You're rubbish,' 'She's a b\*\*ch' don't build up.
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Encouraging with their character traits builds up more than external things. But don't ignore the external things! Many people crave success and fear failure, so when this comes, be especially gentle and positive. Think Peter's denial and Jesus' response (John 18 & 21).

8. Be **inclusive**. Draw in every person. New and regular. Quiet and loud. Don't ignore people (James 2).
  
  9. Be **seeing others as Christ sees them**. Remember the woman caught in adultery in John 8.3-11. Jesus doesn't judge but welcomes, speaks, loves! *"Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity."* 1 Timothy 5.1-2
  
  10. Be **generous friends**. Go out of your way to build friendships like Jesus did. Be genuinely interested in people and remember things about others' lives. People crave authentic friendships. Message someone to hang out. You can be friends with people of the opposite sex (but note point 5). Don't make assumptions. Forgive quickly.
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