



RENEWAL CHURCH

O F A N D E R S O N

FAMILY EQUIPPING

Behavior Principles and Expectations

Renewal Church of Anderson ~ August 10, 2014

Renewal Church's greatest investment in future generations is to encourage children of all ages to set their hope in God. It is our earnest desire and longing that each child would repent and believe in Jesus.

While godly character and conduct are a result of a heart that has been transformed by the gospel, we believe that both children who are regenerate and those who are unregenerate should be taught biblical principles of conduct. A regenerate child will grow under this teaching as a young disciple and an unregenerate child will become aware of sin and his need for the gospel.

Here you will find broad principles regarding conduct as well as specific behavior expectations for children participating in the ministries of Renewal Church. These principles and expectations are to assist you as you disciple your children and cultivate godly behavior.

Parents as Primary Disciple-Makers

Renewal Church's pastors, ministry leaders, and volunteers are committed to partnering with parents to disciple their children. We believe parents are the primary disciple-makers responsible for instructing and encouraging godly behavior in their children (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

While ministry volunteers are expected to maintain order and proper behavior in the classroom and during ministry activities, the parents of unruly and disobedient children will be asked when necessary to exercise appropriate correction and discipline.

Grace for Growing Parents

Each child is unique and sovereignly created by the Lord (Psalm 139:13-14). Some children will struggle more with behavior than others. Our Pastors and Ministry team strives to be patient and to help parents who are facing challenges with a child. Our ministry team will make every effort to encourage and work with parents in their ministry of parenting and discipling during these seasons.

Authority and the Gospel

Behavior principles and expectations are more than rules. While these behavior guidelines create an environment for discipleship within the ministries of Renewal Church, they also teach our young people to live under God-given authority. Correction and discipline are an important aspect of nurturing and discipling children by teaching them to obey Christ and to follow God's will by obeying teachers and leaders (Proverbs 3:11-12, Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20, Hebrews 13:17).

Establishing behavior principles and expectations help young people learn to live under God-given authority and within God-given boundaries. This teaches children to take ownership of their sin nature and selfish will, enabling them to see their need for a relationship with Jesus Christ.

General Expectations for Children

Renewal is a big family that God has brought together here in the Anderson community. By establishing behavior principles and expectations we help our children consider others in our church family (Matthew 7:12, Matthew 22:37-40, Romans 12:9-13, Philippians 2:3-4). Expectations may vary according to the age of a child, the location of the activity, and the ministry taking place, but general behavior expectations fall under the following categories:

Respect for Adults: Honor for adults in the church should be reflected in attitudes, speech, and behavior. Adults should be spoken to with polite and respectful attitudes and tone of voice. Children should address adults with titles such as “Mr.,” “Mrs.,” or “Miss” out of respect. Children should listen and obey ministry leaders and volunteers that God has placed in authority over them.

Respect for Others: Scripture encourages us to “count others more significant than ourselves” (Philippians 2:2-4, Colossians 3:12-17). Young people should be encouraged to be patient, kind, generous, and compassionate toward their peers with an attitude to serve and consider others more significant than themselves. Younger children will model this behavior by sharing toys and creative supplies, while older children will model this by waiting patiently and encouraging others to participation and conversation before themselves.

Respect for Themselves: Children are encouraged to live and act in ways that do not put themselves at risk of harm to their bodies or souls.

Respect for Physical Surroundings: All church gathering spaces, furniture, and equipment should be treated with respect and used as it was intended. Respecting surroundings will help children understand stewardship of God’s resources to our church.

Correction While Participating in Ministry

It is always our desire to see Christ-honoring behavior affirmed and disobedient behavior discouraged by parents, ministry leaders, and young people’s peers. If discipline or correction is necessary for a child at Renewal, our ministry team encourages parents and ministry leaders to be positive, immediate, and consistent in responding. Our ministry leaders or volunteers may initiate correction for a child as outlined below, but it is our expectation that parents take the primary role in correcting their child if they are present.

If parents are not present to correct a child, ministry leaders or volunteers will respond with a gentle warning without embarrassing or bringing attention to the child in front of his or her peers. If a child does not respond to the correction of a ministry leader or volunteer but continues in disobedience he or she will be temporarily separated from other children. If persistent sinful behavior or attitude continues, ministry leaders will locate and return the child to his parents for appropriate discipline.

Any physical form of correction by ministry leaders or volunteers is unacceptable in the classroom or any ministry activity. Ministry leaders and volunteers are permitted to gently restrain a child putting himself or others at risk of body injury.

By establishing these behavior principles and expectations for our church family, we hope to create an environment in which parents are encouraged as disciple-makers and children see Jesus as our greatest hope and treasure.