

## **Public Display of Affection**

### **First Baptist Church Student Ministry**

### **Public Display of Affection Policy**

The Bible says that touch is a very important thing to us as human beings and to God. Romans 16:16 says, "Greet one another with a holy kiss." In our society that translates to a hug, a handshake, high-five, hands-on-a-shoulder, or pat-on-the-back. Jesus often touched the sick to heal them. He did not have to, but He chose to use that means. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus touched Peter, James, and John to calm their fears.

Touch is obviously a very powerful action. It can be healing, spiritual, and convey messages from the heart that words cannot share. Touch links us together in happy and sad times.

But, touch can also be misconstrued and misused. Therefore, these guidelines are offered to youth and youth workers on Public Displays of Affection (P.D.A.):

#### **\*The Student Ministry Worker Guidelines**

1. No leader-to-student touching alone. (No closed door sessions)
2. No singling out individual students for touch, regardless of gender-except for comfort during a crisis, (I.e....If you hug one kid, hug them all).
3. Model neutral touch such as group hugs and group hand holding during prayer.
4. If you experience or witness a touch that makes you feel uncomfortable, share your feelings directly and promptly with the person or persons involved.

#### **\*The Students**

1. Daylight (or moonlight) must be able to be seen between you.
2. You may not lie down together at any time. No heads in laps, either.
3. No sitting on each other's lap.
4. No leg or back rubbing.
5. Touching in sexual ways either under or through clothing will NOT be tolerated.
6. If you experience or witness a touch that makes you feel uncomfortable, share your feelings directly and promptly with the persons involved, or a trusted adult.

This policy is not meant to be exhaustive, nor is it meant to work in or cover every conceivable situation. It will be up to the Student Minister and Student Ministry Committee to evaluate any questionable situation in regard to these guidelines.

**The penalties for not abiding by these guidelines will begin with a private warning, after that the warning will be done at the time of the violation, whether public or private.**

**If the student(s) in question continue to disregard the guidelines, then the Student Ministry worker will separate the students while they are at church or on a trip and speak to the parents. If it continues to persist, the students will be excluded from activities.**

**The First Baptist Church of Thomson, GA**  
**Student Ministry Dress Code Policy**

**Students at First Baptist Church are expected to reflect a Christian example by their dress. Parents, church leaders, and Student Ministry workers, are responsible for the clothing/appearance of students.**

**Acceptable Dress for all activities:**

- Modest shorts and tank tops
- Jeans
- Modest skirts and dresses are acceptable for worship
- Tank tops need straps wide enough to cover undergarments (no spaghetti straps)
- **Swimwear:** Only one-piece bathing suits or tankini's are allowed

**Unacceptable Dress for any activities:**

- Skirts shorter than mid-thigh length
- Immodest shorts or tops
- Midriff or tube tops
- Distasteful designs or messages that advertise drugs, alcohol, or vulgarity, and other extreme clothes are NOT acceptable at any time
- Bikini's, French-cuts and Speedos

**The Student Minister and Student Ministry Committee will have the final say about the appropriateness or inappropriateness in questionable situations.**

**Rules and Policies for FBC Thomson Student Ministry Events**

- **Do NOT Bring:**
  - Any clothing deemed inappropriate by the Dress Code Policy
  - "Practical Joke" Items, such as silly string, shaving cream (unless only used on YOUR face/legs), fireworks, water guns, etc. (*Any such items can be brought only by the student minister or other appointed adult and dispensed to students at the inappropriate time*).
  - Weapons, tobacco, drugs, alcohol, yadda, yadda, yadda...you know...bad stuff.
- **Music and Media Items:**
  - On most trips, any personal music or gaming devices are NOT allowed.
  - When exceptions are made, please only bring music and games appropriate for the purpose of the trip—and since they are ALL church trips, the ultimate purpose is to glorify God (*How your media choices affect your daily life and relationship with God, and how you should glorify Him whether or not your on a "church" trip is a whole 'nother sermon!!*) Please keep the music to Christian music, instrumental, or by artists and with themes and lyrics that would NOT offend others on the trip or hinder God's working in your life. (Pretty vague, I know, which is why we normally don't allow them).
- **Overall Behavior and Attitude:**
  - You will be expected to participate in all group activities with an open mind and good attitude. We design everything we do to be fun and rewarding, but it all depends on YOUR attitude.
  - Please show all adults on this trip the proper respect.
  - You will be expected to abide by ALL rules and regulations of the hotel, host home, and/or event venue (camp, conference center, ski resort, etc.).
  - Repeated failure to comply with the above policies and procedures could result in your return home at your/your parents' expense and suspension from other upcoming student ministry trips.