

Statement on Lifestyle Expectations and Ministry

November 2017

People who are involved in church leadership and teaching are expected to aspire to the qualities required of Overseers and Deacons, as stated in 1 Timothy 3. Anyone who is a teacher or leader at Crossroads represents the church to others and is viewed as a community role model. Therefore, any leaders or teachers in all the ministries of the church are expected to be living in a way that is, and is perceived by others, as a biblically correct way. This expectation applies, for example, to small group leaders, worship team members, Sunday School teachers, and youth leaders.

All of us, whether we profess to be Christian or not, are fallen and broken people, who are only made whole in Christ. This policy does not imply that leaders and teachers at Crossroads are perfect people, but rather that certain standards should be evident in their lives. For this reason, the church holds certain expectations for them.

Specifically, the Elders and Pastors at Crossroads may consider that someone is not eligible for a particular role because they are living in particular circumstances or in a specific way. This is a sensitive issue, but the church holds a clear view on it because of the responsibility that comes with leadership in the Body of Christ. A person who has been serving in a leadership role may also be asked to step down from their position for a period of time if they are in a situation where the Elders or Pastors consider this an appropriate action.

Crossroads International Church of Basel is an Elder-led church (Crossroads Statutes section 4 i). The Senior Pastor is a permanent member of the Board of Elders (BoE). Those taking on a teaching or leadership position in the church do so in agreement that they will abide by the decisions and authority of the BoE.

The following are important areas where certain standards are expected:

Marriage

The book of Genesis describes how, at the pinnacle of God's Creation, men and women were created and they became one flesh (Genesis 1:27; 2:20b-24). Regardless of exactly what individual Christians believe about the creation narrative, the Elders agree that God created us male and female and sexuality and marriage are very important to him. The union between a man and a woman is seen as a picture of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:25).

The Elders of Crossroads view marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman before God, intentionally for a lifetime. This is the single expression of marriage that Crossroads accepts because we believe that this is the standard set by God.

We accept that sometimes divorce occurs, and we will accept people who have divorced into teaching positions, whether they remain single or are remarried. We also believe in supporting families which are "blended" together through remarriage. For individuals who are currently in the midst of a divorce, or who are recently divorced, we would request they step back from a teaching position until their situation stabilizes.

Relationships

The Bible instructs Christians to abstain from all types of sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Ephesians 5:3-17; Colossians 3; Galatians 5:19-21). In a biblical sense, contrary to much of today's accepted culture, sexual immorality includes sexual relationships outside of marriage, homosexual activity, and couples living together outside of wedlock. Anyone who is involved in a relationship that is biblically immoral, or may appear so to outsiders, will not hold a teaching or leadership position at Crossroads.

Legal and financial matters and other matters of material responsibility

The teaching of the Bible on matters of material responsibility and morality is clear (for example, Deuteronomy 5:19; Mark 10:19; Leviticus 19:11; Ephesians 4:28). If a person is involved in matters that are of a questionable nature, such as those suggesting dishonesty, or an overtly immoral activity such as financial irregularity or theft, he or she should not be in a teaching or leadership position.

These specifications are not comprehensive, and where anyone is uncertain, they should approach one of the Elders or the Senior Pastor for clarification.