

Imitate Holiness: Safeguarding Against Spiritual and Sexual Abuse

In light of recent unethical and immoral harms done by a volunteer who was unaffiliated with Chi Alpha but nonetheless platformed and promoted in a number of Chi Alpha chapters in Texas, we want to be clear about what students can expect and what is expected of our Student and Staff leaders in Chi Alpha Hawaii. This includes, but is not limited to, the following biblical values of holiness that are in opposition to what opens the door to spiritual and sexual abuse.

Our goal is not to aim at what sins we will not commit, our goal is always to aim at practicing imitating our Father in the highest expression of holiness in thought, speech, and actions according to

1 Peter 1:15

But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

Therefore, let it be known that:

1. All forms of sexual harassment and explicit behavior are unholy.

“But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.” Ephesians 5:3-4

2. Hazing is unholy.

“Don’t let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, “Don’t handle! Don’t taste! Don’t touch!”? Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person’s evil desires.” Colossians 2:18-23 NLT

* The context of this scripture is addressing religious leaders that insist on uncalled for practices to prove and keep allegiance to their order. This is rightly appropriated as wise and holy counsel towards any form of “human teaching” that calls for practices of strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline that does not align with what is biblical and legal.

3. Pornography and masturbation are unholy.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-20

4. Isolating leadership/counsel is unholy (it is actually how cults are formed).

A) Having a primary pastoral/spiritual father/mother is good for personal guidance, responsibility, and accountability.

“After all, though you should have ten thousand teachers (guides to direct you) in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the glad tidings (the Gospel).” 1 Corinthians 4:15 AMPC

B) Receiving from several biblical teachers is good for growing in wisdom and understanding.

“After all, though you should have ten thousand teachers (guides to direct you) in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the glad tidings (the Gospel).” 1 Corinthians 4:15 AMPC

“Where there is no counsel, purposes are frustrated, but with many counselors they are accomplished.” Proverbs 15:22 AMPC

C) The Holy Spirit teaches and reminds us of what is good and true.

“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” John 14:26 NLT

5. Confront your brother and sister when they sin using the model Jesus taught us

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Matthew 18:15-17

Jeremy's email is this Jeremy@xahawaii.com He is our boss. You have the ability and right to go to him if you see or experience abuse. You of course can always come to us as well. We will listen to you and support you.