

Lifestyle of House Church Members

These expectations are not rules and regulations. They are to be used as helpful guidelines and principles which enable us to love Christ, one another and unbelievers more effectively.

One becomes a member of the Rock International Tribe by becoming a son or daughter of God, through Christ by the Holy Spirit, and becoming an active member of a Rock House Church. All members of a house church should come into a unity of understanding and expectations around the lifestyle of Rock House Church members. It is also advantageous to maintain an ongoing dialogue between all the members of the house church so that relationships stay healthy.

Core Motivation of Each House Church Member: God's Glory in the Nations!

God's highest motivation is to bring Himself glory in the nations (Ps. 96:3) by exalting Christ as Lord and to advance His kingdom in every sphere of life. He will accomplish this through His sons and daughters whose hearts have been completely transformed, so that their consuming passion, their core motivation, is to bring glory to Father through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our life together in house churches will only be effective to the degree that all those involved have been delivered from the prevailing perversion of how the gospel is presented (that God exists for **us**: to save **us**, heal and deliver **us**, bless and prosper **our** lives, to motivate people to adore **us**, to empower **us** to do great things, and to help **us** leave a legacy to **ourselves**) and are actually transformed from the inside out by the true gospel of the King and the kingdom (we exist for God's glory). We must be given totally new hearts with the core motives, desires and abilities to live for God's glory in every sphere of life, twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. This passionate love, even jealousy, for God's glory (which comes from God Himself) grows to such a white-hot level that it naturally causes one to give themselves to the expansion of God's glory every where, all the time, even in the nations.

When someone comes into a house church, we must do our best to make sure that from the very beginning they hear the eternal gospel "fear God and give Him glory" (Rev. 14:6-7), the good news of Christ's Lordship and kingdom, and the opportunity of receiving a new heart which longs to give God glory (Col. 1:27). Faith and reality come from hearing the gospel of the King and the kingdom. We must also do our best to help each member come into the revelation of being adopted as a child into the family of God, and to not assume that they have been delivered from a spirit of illegitimacy and rejection. Knowing and experiencing Father's love, the reality of being adopted into His family within the context of a healthy, loving spiritual family

should be the norm of every believer. House churches built on any other foundation will not last.

When a person has the revelation that they are a son/daughter of glory (Heb. 2:10), they will welcome Father's loving discipline and correction through their spiritual family (Heb. 12). They will be proactive in hearing and speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4:15; 2 Tim. 4:2), so areas of weakness and sin will be eliminated and God will get even greater glory through their life.

Expectations:

1. They are sincerely seeking to know God through Christ unto the end that they become born again Christians, Spirit-filled, radical disciples of Christ. By joining the house church, they are inviting the leaders and other members to help them follow Christ and grow into Christ's likeness.
2. They are in unity with and submission to the values, vision, strategies, and expectations of the leaders of their Rock House Church, the local elders, and the apostolic leadership team of Rock International Tribe.
3. They attend and participate weekly in the life and activities of the house church, and regularly attend Rock celebrations and training. They honor and worship God and help advance His kingdom by giving tithes and offerings through Rock International.
4. They contribute to the discipleship of the other members in the house church, engage in evangelistic outreach, and help to advance the kingdom of God within the settings and with the people established by God. They enthusiastically embrace the multiplication of their house church.
5. They are committed to grace affirmation: (Unconditional Love, Agape Love) Colossians 3:5-14 I will choose to love you, up build you, and accept you, my brothers and sisters, no matter what you say or do. I will choose to love you in whatever form you come. There is nothing you have done or will do that will make me stop loving you. I may not agree with your actions, but I will love you as a person and do all I can to hold you up in God's affirming love.
6. They are committed to honesty: Ephesians 4:25-32 I will not hide from you what I feel about you or coming from you, good or bad, but I will see, in the timing of the Spirit, to deal openly and directly with you in a loving and forgiving way so that you are affirmed when in need, and so that our frustration with each other does not become bitterness. I will

try to mirror back to you what I am hearing you say and feel. If this means risking pain, realizing it is in "speaking the truth in love that we grow up in every way into Christ who is the head" (Ephesians 4:15), then I will take the risk. I will try to express this honesty in a sensitive and controlled manner and to meter it, according to what I perceive the circumstances to be.

7. They are committed to openness: Romans 7:15-25 I will try to strive to become a more open person, disclosing my feelings, my struggles, my joys and my hurts to you as well as I am able. The degree to which I do so implies that I cannot make it without you. This is to affirm your worth to me as a person. In other words, I need you!
8. They are committed to prayer: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 I commit to pray for you in some regular fashion, believing that our caring Father wishes His children to pray for one another and ask Him for the blessings we all need. I will not be merely a passive listener. Rather, I choose to be a spiritual participant, willing to enter into your situation and prayerfully helping to shoulder your burden.
9. They are committed to sensitivity: John 4:1-29 Even as I desire to be known and understood by you, I commit to be sensitive to you and your needs to the best of my ability. I will try to hear you, see you, and feel where you are and to draw you out of the pit of discouragement or withdrawal. I will earnestly avoid giving "simplistic" answers to the difficult situations you may find yourself in.
10. They are committed to availability: Acts 2:43-47 Here I am if you need me. Anything I have--time, energy, insight, possessions--is at your disposal, if you need it, to the limit of my resources.
11. They are committed to confidentiality: Proverbs 10:19; 11:9,13; 12:23; 13:3; 15:4; 18:6-8 I will keep whatever is shared within the confines of the house church in order to provide the atmosphere of trust necessary for openness. I understand, however, that this confidentiality does not prohibit my house church leader from sharing either verbally or in written form any pertinent information with the congregational elders. I understand that house church leaders function under pastoral/elder oversight, having delegated authority as an extension of the pastoral care ministry of this congregation. As a result, they are accountable to the elder(s) of this church, who are

themselves accountable to others in ministry and the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, my Lord (Hebrews 13:17).

12. They are committed to accountability: Ezekiel 3:16-21 and Matthew 18:12-30 I commit to growth, maturity and discipleship using the Bible and other equipping materials that each of the house churches in our congregation are progressing through as part of their equipping times, and in doing so will make myself accountable weekly to my accountability partner in the house church. I give you the right to question, confront, and challenge me in love when I seem to be falling in any aspect of my life under God--family, devotions, general spiritual growth, etc. I trust you to be in the Spirit and led of Him when you do so. I need your correction and reproof so that I may ever better fulfill God-given ministry among you. I will try not to be defensive. (Proverbs 12:1,15; 13:10,18).
13. They are committed to time regularity: Luke 9:57-62 I will regard the regular time which my house church spends together weekly as time under the disciplining hand of Jesus in our midst. I will not grieve the Spirit or hinder His work in the lives of my brothers and sisters by my absence, except in an emergency. By His permission, and through prayer alone, will I consider being absent. If I am unable to attend for any reason, out of consideration I will call my house church leader in order that the house church members may know why I am absent, will be able to pray for me, and will not worry about me.
14. They are committed to outreach: Matthew 25:31-46 I will find ways to sacrifice myself for those outside our house church and congregation in the same way that I have committed to sacrifice myself for you, my brothers and sisters. I will network in prayer and relationships with my fellow house church members to bring two or more unbelievers or unchurched friends to my house church during the course of its life. I will do it in Jesus' Name so that others are added to the Kingdom of God in His love.