

# Men's Discipleship Group - Sample #1

## Personal Covenant for Discipleship and Accountability

- I recognize that confession of sin is an essential part of repentance. (*Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.* Proverbs 28:13 ESV)
- I struggle with sexual sin. This struggle is ongoing but I am seeking to walk in repentance.
- I have banded with other pastors who are walking with me in repentance.
- It is vital to my ongoing walk in repentance to have close fellowship with these men.
- I will carefully guard the information that the group entrusts to me, because confidentiality is an important aspect of our relationship.
- I understand that all of my personal information will be held in strict confidence as well, unless I give permission to release this information or I fall in one of these exceptions:
  - If I express intent to harm himself/herself or someone else;
  - If there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elder person, or dependent adult;
  - If a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information;
  - If the leadership believes he needs to obtain advice. If that is necessary, all personal information will be removed from the conversation.
  - If I experience extreme moral failure, demonstrate unwillingness to struggle against a particular grievous sinful behavior, and exhibit prolonged and outright rebellion to proper Biblical authority. Examples of this would be: my repeated and unrepentant adultery or promiscuity, abandoning my wife, repeated *and* unrepentant use of pornography (not merely an occasional or uncharacteristic "slip up"), a non-communicative hiding or running from the group that demonstrates an unwillingness to submit to basic Christian accountability.

If such behavior becomes known to member(s) in the group he will follow the process outlined in Matthew 18:15-19.

  - First, he (the pursuer) will go and show me my fault.
  - Secondly, the pursuer will bring the group leader and perhaps one other member to establish the matter.
  - Finally, they inform the group of my behavior and ask for prayer. The leader will then contact "the leader in authority" to "tell it to the church".
  - While the leader and pursuer follow the Matthew 18 path, they pledge to obey the Scriptural admonitions to walk by the Spirit, to seek to restore me in a spirit of gentleness, to keep watch on themselves, lest they be tempted, and to ask God to give me life (Galatians 5:26 - 6:1; 1 John 5:13 ESV).
- Please give the leader the contact information for someone who would be the best person to contact if necessary. This person should be someone in authority over me or have access to the authority over me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship/title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature and date

\_\_\_\_\_ Print name

## Sample #2

### Personal Covenant Statement for Discipleship & Accountability

#### 1. Description and goals

- I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ Church, her pastors, elders, and group facilitators, seek to provide a setting in which individuals can
  - Share their struggles and the story of their sexual sin and brokenness
  - Learn what the Bible says about the sexual and heart issues
  - Find support and encouragement from others who have similar struggles with sexual idolatry – that is true biblical fellowship in repentance
  - Find grace-based accountability – that is true biblical brotherhood
  - Move into a deeper relationship with Christ and grow in understanding of their new identity those united to Christ – that is true biblical discipleship and spiritual maturity

In other words, the group is to be a safe social location where God's grace powerfully works in the lives of heretofore isolated, sexually autonomous men through God's word, Spirit, and the grace of Christian brotherhood that will result in growth in repentance, joy, and fruitful obedience for the glory of God.

#### 2. Group conduct and culture

- I will be increasingly open and honest in the group about my life, my thoughts, my feelings, and my temptations and falls into sin. I won't deceive others in the group to lead them to believe I'm doing better than I actually am.
- I will respect what others in the group can bear to hear. To the best of my ability, I'll hold back from sharing intimate or specific details of my sins – since hearing this could be a stumbling block for another group member.
- I will regularly pray for the other group members, for the facilitators, and myself.

#### 3. Relationship of this group to my repentance

- I recognize that confession of sin is an essential part of repentance. (*Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.* Proverbs 28:13 ESV)
- I struggle with sexual sin. This struggle is ongoing but is an expression of my repentance towards Christ.
- By joining this group, I am banding with others who are walking with me in repentance.
- I recognize it is vital to my ongoing walk in repentance and restoration to have close fellowship with these men.

#### 4. Confidentiality and Accountability

- I will carefully guard the information that the group entrusts to me and will keep it completely confidential, because confidentiality is an important aspect of our relationship. I understand that willful or reckless disregard of this commitment to confidentiality is a serious offense against my brothers and may result in expulsion from the group or broader church discipline. Some particular examples of this commitment are:
  - I will not disclose to anyone outside the group, including my wife, even the names of the other members of the group, much less any details of their personal stories. However, this does not preclude me from open discussion with my wife of my own spiritual walk, topics or scriptures studied in the group, and how God is moving in my heart through these things.
  - If married, I will honor and love my wife by being careful to respect her right to privacy, not disclosing to the men in the group any detail or life experience of hers without her knowledge and consent.

- I will be careful when together with another member of this group in the proximity of other church members (or any common acquaintances) not to carelessly bring up or mention sensitive details of group members or meetings.
- I understand that all of my personal information will be held in strict confidence by the leaders and facilitators of this group. The elders of the church who are not active leaders in this group will know that this group exists but will have neither the names of those who are attending nor the particular nature of their struggle. However, I give permission to release this information if I fall in one of these exceptions:
  - If I express intent to harm myself or someone else.
  - If there is evidence or reasonable suspicion of abuse against a minor child, elder person, or dependent adult.
  - If a subpoena or other court order is received directing the disclosure of information; or If I express anything which the lawful authorities would require the leaders/facilitators to report.
  - If my sin is already or becomes a public sin – in other words, if your sin becomes publicly known, we would not want your elders to be “the last to know.”
  - If I am an officer in the church or stand for election to office. I understand biblically that bearing church office carries with it a greater responsibility to both maturity in the fight against sin and honesty before my fellow officers.
  - If I demonstrate unwillingness to struggle against a particular grievous sinful behavior or exhibit prolonged and outright rebellion to proper Biblical authority.
    - What do we mean by this? If you are active and engaged in this group, that is evidence itself that you are in the process of repenting; and it is to be expected that your struggle with sin will be long, with many setbacks as well as growth. However, if it appears that you are not even struggling against sin but rejecting the path of repentance (examples: quitting the group without adequate communication; persistent deception of the group or your wife, deliberate undermining of the purposes and goals of the group), then we will follow the process Jesus outlined in Matthew 18 so as to try to help turn you around. That will involve:
      - First, one of the leaders would speak to you privately to express concern and challenge you to renew the struggle.
      - Second, if that encouragement is rejected, a leader will speak to you with at least one other member of the group who is in agreement.
      - Third, the leadership of the group would contact one of your parish elders (and no one else), informing him of the basics of the situation, and that we believe you are in spiritual danger of rejecting repentance and faith. This will not be done without your having one last opportunity to show to the leaders that you are in fact seeking to repent.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature and date  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Print name