

# CONFIDENTIALITY GUIDELINES

## How to Handle Confidential Information in Prayer and Ministry

### PRAY FOR WISDOM

- Ask God to give you wisdom about the situation. God knows the full picture and the hearts of the people.
- Ask God for how He wants you to pray about the situation. Pray according to what God reveals to you.

### DO NOT JUDGE OR TAINT WITH PERSONAL BIAS

- Do not be quick to judge anyone involved based upon what you see and hear. Remember that you might not have all the facts and have not heard all sides of the story.
- Even if someone is guilty of something awful, forgive them as Christ has forgiven you. Jesus shed His blood for them.
- Check yourself for planks in your eyes. If the situation triggers anger, hurt, frustration, etc. in you, work it out with God before presuming your issues into the situation you are praying about. Otherwise, abstain from prayer.

### PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

- Pray FOR their wholeness, alignment with God and His purposes, repentance through knowledge of the truth, etc.
- Do not pray against anyone. Do unto others... Pray for others the way you want someone to pray for you.
- Do not pray for enemies to be thrown into confusion. Jesus died for us when we were His enemies.

### DO NOT SHARE INFORMATION

- DO NOT share ANY information learned through prayer or ministry service with your friends, family, or spouse, even in the form of a "prayer request" or "processing." Do unto others... Would you want your information shared?
- Check your motive for wanting to share the information. Violating confidence is a serious breach of ministry trust.
  - Why would you share this? Is it necessary for you to share it? Why you?
  - Who are you sharing it with? Why do they need to know? Are they trustworthy?
- If the issue comes up in conversation, do not violate anyone's confidence by causing them to know that you already know through prayer or ministry.
- If it is appropriate and necessary: talk to leadership about the situation before sharing with anyone else.

### MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

- DO NOT reach out to people based on information you learned in prayer or ministry, even to offer comfort.
- Check your motive for wanting to reach out or intervene. A prayer request is NOT an invitation into the situation.
  - Do you have a role in their life or in this situation? Is this your issue? Are you responsible for this?
  - Are you intruding? Judging? Gossiping? Presuming? Pushing an agenda?
  - Has the Lord prompted you to do something or is it your own idea of "concern" or "compassion"?
- If the person involved brings up the issues to you in conversation directly, do not violate their confidence by causing them to know that you already know. Let them share it with you as if you have not heard it.
- If it is appropriate and necessary: talk to leadership about the situation before doing anything.

### KEEP YOUR HEART POSTURED IN LOVE

- When you see the people involved, love them and be normal towards them. Do not be obnoxious or awkward.
- Do not hold a grudge against people you pray for, even if they make unwise choices. Love covers over sin.

### GIVE HONOR, NOT GOSSIP

- Hold them in respect before others, without lying, flattery, exaggeration, or endangering others.
- Shut down gossip, slander, and negative talk. Flee from gossip. Walk away from negative discussions.

