

FICCC College Life Recommendations

At FICCC, we not only want you to have a great spiritual experience while you are in college, but we want to equip you to love the Lord, the lost and your local church for the rest of your life. Therefore we want to give you some guidance to help you do this. We have come up with the following recommendations. These are not legalistic demands. Rather, we want you to prayerfully consider these recommendations as you seek the Lord's guidance in making the most of your time in college. Beyond general recommendations, we provide recommendations to help you grow in the three different relationships, though there is a lot of overlap in the relationship between the three.

1. *General recommendations:*

- Prioritize your spiritual life (your love relationship with the Lord) over all things, including your social life, extracurricular activities and academic life (Matt. 6:33).
- Take responsibility for your own spiritual growth. Don't expect others to take over this responsibility for you. (2 Pet. 3:18).
 - a. Write goals for your spiritual life
 - b. Seek out help from your church, campus ministries, mentors and peers.
 - c. Have people hold you accountable for your goals.
- Pursue excellence in your spiritual life, academics and all other areas for the glory of the Lord, rather than self-glory (Col. 3:23).

2. *For growing in your love for the Lord, we recommend the following (Matt. 22:37):*

- Several times each week privately take time to read the Bible, pray and worship the Lord.
- Read through the entire Bible at least once during your time in college.
- Read at least one Christian book a semester. A bibliography is available on request.
- Develop other spiritual disciplines in your life (see *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* by Adele Ahlberg Calhoun for guidance).

3. *For growing in your love for the lost, we recommend the following (2 Cor. 5:14,15):*

- Each year commit to the "baby steps of evangelism" with 3-5 people.
 1. **Pray** daily that they will become Christians.
 2. **Build friendships** with them.
 3. **Tell them that** you are a Christian.
 4. **Invite** them to an appropriate **event**.
 5. **Tell them why** you're a Christian.
 6. **Tell them how to** become a Christian.
 7. **Invite** them to **become** a Christian.
 8. **Help** them **grow** as Christian
- During your time in college, get evangelism training.
- Participate in at least one mission trip during your time in college.

4. *For growing in your love for the local church, we recommend the following (1 Pet. 1:22):*

- College can be a good time to experience the diverse ways to worship the Lord, and so you may sense that the Lord may want you to explore different churches. However, it may be wise to limit this time of searching to no more than a semester and that you then commit yourself to one church during your time in Ithaca unless you have a clear sense that the Lord is leading you to another church.
- The Bible defines a church not as a building nor as an activity, but as a community of believers. Therefore, it is important to commit your lives to a community of believers who compose a local church. If you sense that the Lord desires for you to commit yourself to the FICCC community, it would be helpful to develop this commitment by regularly participating in *both* worship service and Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF).
- Serve in a ministry in a local church for at least one academic year.
- Give generously and cheerfully to your local church as the Lord enables you to do so (2 Cor. 9:6,7).
- Parachurch campus fellowships can be very helpful for your spiritual life, if they enhance your love for the local church, instead of replacing your love for the local church. Instead of developing a sense of entitlement to be served, they should help develop of spirit of servanthood to serve the local church both before and after graduation. So evaluate your involvement in light of this ideal.
- Commit to one campus fellowship by getting involved in their large group rally, small group Bible study and an area of serving. For a list of recommended Cornell campus fellowships go to:
rso.cornell.edu/campusonahill/