

# The Calvary Way

“Truth without love is harshness; love without truth is compromise.” — Tim Keller

At Calvary Christian School, we believe that the way we live and communicate with one another is a reflection of the truth and grace of Jesus Christ. The Calvary Way defines how our community, staff, students, and parents; interact, resolve conflict, and pursue relationships that honor God.

These six commitments shape the culture of our school. They are not rules to enforce, but practices to embody. They help us live out our mission to Teach Truth and Prepare Disciples through Christ-centered relationships.

## **Purpose**

To establish a culture marked by humility, unity, and discipleship, where every conversation and decision reflects Christ’s character.

We believe that relationships are the foundation of Christian education. The Calvary Way provides a shared language for grace-filled communication so that “by this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

## **1. Listen First, Speak Slowly**

“Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.” James 1:19

- We listen to understand rather than react.
- We give others the dignity of being fully heard.
- We protect confidentiality and respect privacy.

At Calvary, we pause to pray before we reply.

## **2. Speak the Truth in Love Directly**

“Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the Head, that is, Christ.” Ephesians 4:15

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” Matthew 18:15

- We approach conflict with humility, not hostility.
- We seek clarity from the source, avoiding gossip and assumption.
- We address concerns directly and privately, following Christ’s model for reconciliation.
- We balance honesty with kindness and empathy.

At Calvary, we choose restoration over accusation.

## **3. Build Up, Don’t Tear Down**

“Speak only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Ephesians 4:29

- Our words and actions should strengthen, not divide.
- We correct in grace and affirm in truth.
- We use encouragement to create an atmosphere of peace.

At Calvary, we use our words as tools for discipleship.

#### **4. Care Without Judgment**

“Do not grumble about each other or you will be judged.” James 5:9

- We assume the best about others’ intentions.
- We respond with curiosity before criticism.
- We show compassion to those who struggle or differ.

At Calvary, we practice empathy before evaluation.

#### **5. Walk in Humility and Forgiveness**

“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.” James 5:16

- We admit our own faults and seek forgiveness quickly.
- We extend grace to others as freely as Christ extends it to us.
- We view every disagreement as an opportunity for discipleship.

At Calvary, repentance is a mark of maturity, not weakness.

#### **6. Participate Fully in the Body of Christ**

“Freely you have received; freely give.” Matthew 10:8

- We serve one another joyfully and consistently.
- We speak well of our school, families, and leaders.
- We actively pursue unity as an act of worship.

At Calvary, we show the love of Christ through action.

### **The Calvary Way in Action**

#### **In the Classroom**

- Teachers model patience, gentleness, and biblical communication.
- Students learn to handle conflict and correction with grace and truth.

#### **In the Office**

- Staff approach each conversation with clarity, compassion, and integrity.
- Communication remains transparent, professional, and Christ-centered.

#### **In the Home**

- Parents reinforce Christ-like habits of communication, humility, and prayer.
- Families partner with the school in unity and mutual respect.

### **Living The Calvary Way**

Together, as parents, students, and staff, we commit to cultivating a community where grace and truth meet; where relationships are redeemed, and where Jesus Christ is honored in every word and deed.

“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Colossians 3:17