



introduction

Christ-followers are members of God's household and called to function and participate in a particular way within the body of Christ (Eph. 2:19). A human body requires each member to do its part well. The healthy local church requires the same: members called out of the world who are being changed into the likeness of Christ, connected in relationship, and committed to engaging their culture and making a difference in the world. (II Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:10).

A covenant is a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one person is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; 2 Tim. 2:13). Being a covenant member of Zion Church is really about being a contributing member of a family.

All members are disciples of Jesus, unified by grace. This unity is expressed in the way they collaborate in loving God, loving fellow Christ-followers, and loving others. Those who enter into a membership covenant at Zion Church desire to be more than passive participants on Sunday morning. These individuals are responding to the call to a higher degree of responsibility and service as an outgrowth of their desire to become like Christ. At the same time, Zion's Elders covenant to assist members first and foremost by modeling and leading, feeding and caring, and protecting the church. (I Pet. 5:1-4).

The Zion Church covenant includes a statement of faith, a statement of doctrine, the responsibilities of Zion Church to its members, and the responsibilities of members to Zion Church. Though the covenant does define the relationship between members and Zion Church, it is first and foremost a promise made to God (Eph. 5:25).

the Christ-follower's statement of faith

These essentials are the core of Christian faith at Zion and the entire Church, universally. These beliefs mark a Christ-follower. They are not unique to any denomination or group. Members are not required to have a complete understanding of these beliefs. However, rejection of any one of these beliefs disqualifies one from membership at Zion.

1. I believe the Bible is inspired, without error and the final authority in my faith and life (Ps.19:7-11; II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20-21).
2. I believe Jesus Christ is exactly who He claimed to be (Lk. 22:70; Jn. 4:25-26; 6:29; 8:58; 14:6-7; 15:5). He is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human (Matt. 1:20; Heb. 1:1-3). He died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin (Is. 53:6). He physically rose from the dead and he physically ascended into heaven and will one day physically return as reigning King (Acts. 1:11).
3. I have repented of my sins and have been made a new creation in Christ (I Jn. 1:9; II Cor. 5:17).
4. I am a Christ-follower saved from the eternal wrath of God by faith alone in Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, through his death and resurrection, by which I am assured of eternal life (Jn. 3:16-18; Rm. 3:23-26).
5. In obedience to Scripture, I have been baptized after my conversion to personally identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and to publicly demonstrate my commitment as a disciple of Jesus (Col. 2:12; I Pet. 3:21).

Zion's statement of doctrine

The doctrines expressed in the Christ-follower's statement of faith are primary within the Church. However, there are a number of secondary beliefs the leadership of ZION is passionate. Complete agreement with these doctrines is NOT required for the sake of membership, but ZION will preach, teach, and counsel in accordance with these theological convictions. This doctrine is communicated through ZION's messages, classes, written material, and other forms.

scripture

We teach the 66 books of the Holy Bible are inspired (God-breathed), without error in the original writings, and the final authority for faith and life (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 16:12, 13).

triune God

We teach there is one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— co-eternal in being, co-eternal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections. One triune God is the foundation of Christian faith and life (Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14).

the Father

We teach God the Father is complete Sovereign and by His word He daily sustains and rules over all creation, with the Son and Holy Spirit. As Father, He gave His Son Jesus Christ for mankind's redemption and intends for man to live in fellowship with Himself (Gen. 1:1; 1 Chron. 29:11; Ps. 36:6; 139: 16; Jn 3:16).

the Son

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (Jn. 1:1-2, 14; Lk. 1:35).

- As Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Rm. 3:24; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2:24; Eph. 1:7).
- As High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He fulfills the ministry as Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9, 10; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Rm. 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1-2).
- As King, the Lord Jesus Christ is coming again to, establish His kingdom, claim His Bride and judge the living and the dead (1 Pet. 4:5; Rm. 14:9; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 19-22).

the Holy Spirit

We teach that the Holy Spirit is fully God, the Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He supernaturally regenerates, baptizes and gifts all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Jn. 16:8-11; 2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Rm. 8:9; Eph.1:13-14, 5:18).

total depravity of man

We teach that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that through Adam's sin humanity fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; man is totally depraved and of himself unable to remedy his lost condition, destined to an eternity in Hell (Gen. 1:26, 27; Rm. 3:22, 23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3, 12).

salvation

We teach that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; Jn. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).



total security and assurance of believers

We teach that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (Jn. 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rm. 8:1, 38, 39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet 1:5). We teach that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh (Rm. 13:13, 14; Gal. 5:13; Titus. 2:11-15).

ministry and spiritual gifts

We teach that God sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts. It is the privilege of every Christ-follower to minister according to their gift(s) and it is their responsibility to develop their sovereignly given spiritual gift(s).

Particular spiritual gift(s) are neither essential, nor prove the presence of the Holy Spirit, nor are an indication of deep spiritual experience (1 Cor. 12:14; Eph. 4:7-8).

God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accordance with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (Jn. 15:7; Jam. 5:14-15; 1 Jn. 5:14, 15).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at conversion and places the Christ-follower into the Body of Christ (Rm. 12:1-8; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).

the Church

We teach that the Church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all Christ-followers (Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2).

The establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament (Acts 14:21-27; 18:22; 20:17; Rm. 16:14; 1 Tim. 3:1; Titus 1:5; II John 10; III John).

The local church is accountable solely to God by His word (Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 20:28; 1 Cor. 3:9, 5:4-7, 13, 16; 1 Pet 5:1-4).

The proclamation of the gospel through God's word, believer's baptism, and Communion are scriptural means of testimony for the church (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:8; 1 Cor 11:23-26).

A Christ-follower's submission to local church leadership and their diligence to preserve unity and peace is a biblical priority. Covenant members adhere to ZION's position on primary theological issues, the statement of faith, and will not be divisive over the statement of doctrine. (Rm. 14; Eph.4:13; Heb. 13:7, 17).

responsibilities of Zion Church to its members

As shepherds and overseers of a local church, Elders are entrusted with modeling, leading, feeding, caring, and protecting the corporate church body and her individual members. The following is a comprehensive overview of the requirements for Elders as prescribed in Scripture. Zion's Elders covenant . . .

- to appoint Elders who meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-7; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- to prayerfully seek God's will for ZION's church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- to model for and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).
- to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (Eph 4:11-13; James 5:14).
- to protect against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- to lead the membership to practice biblical restoration (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).



responsibilities of members to Zion Church

The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as additions to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces.

I have read and understood ZION's doctrinal statements and will not be divisive to its teaching. I also understand the importance of biblical submission to church leadership (Heb 13:17) and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace. Therefore, I covenant...

- to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- to maintain a close relationship with the Lord Jesus through regular Bible reading, prayer, and practice of spiritual disciplines. My relationship will be evident through my regular participation in; Zion's corporate gatherings, a Zion ministry, living out the "one-anothers" of biblical community with Zion members, and a life that glorifies Jesus (Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Pet 1:3).
- to steward the resources God has given me, including my time, abilities, and finances (Prov. 3:9-10; Rm. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rm. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Pet 4:10-11).
- to not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
- to submit to restoration by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).
- to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Rm 14:14-23).
- to take seriously the responsibility of Christian liberty, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor 8:1-13).
- to, by God's grace, walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I might live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17);
 - I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual marriage by abstaining from practices such as cohabitation, pornography, and fornication (Job31:1; Prov. 5; Rm. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4);
 - I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behavior as the Bible, my pastors, and my conscience dictate (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21).
- to do the following when I sin:
 - confess my sin to God and to fellow believers.
 - repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rm 8:13; Col 3:5; James 5:16; 1 Jn 1:6-10)
 - to submit to the Elders and other appointed leaders of the church and will be diligent to strive for unity and peace within the Church (Eph 4:1-3; Heb 13:17; 1 Pet 5:5)

signature

date

confirmed by

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