

# Grace & Truth Bible Church

## Membership Covenant

Church membership is a privileged, covenant relationship between each member and the local church body. Membership in a biblically faithful New Testament church does not save, but it is a reflection of salvation, in that it is an obedient submission to the Headship of Jesus Christ. The local church is a body of people who profess and give evidence that they have repented of their sinful condition and have been saved from God's wrath against sin. They are saved by God's grace alone, for His glory alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. When an individual enters into a membership covenant with a local church, the church is publicly acknowledging the authenticity of this individual's salvation. Therefore, church membership is limited to those whose lives demonstrate a willingness to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, as revealed by an ever increasing lifestyle of fruitfulness. Such transformation is only produced by a faithful commitment to the diligent study of God's Word.

Covenant membership in the local church is an especially important means by which we separate ourselves from the overtones of isolated individualism and self-rule that have become increasingly characteristic of our culture. This influence has allowed many professing Christians to develop an inaccurate understanding of the believer's relationship to the local church. Scripture commands that we cannot live the Christian life independent of a meaningful relationship with a local body of believers. God is not only concerned about the individual relationship each of us has with Him; God is also concerned about the degree to which we invest ourselves in the lives of others, and the degree to which we allow others to invest their lives in us. When we join the church, we are uniting our lives to know and be known by each other. We are agreeing to uphold an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other. We are also agreeing to encourage each other when we need to be reminded of God's work in our lives, or when we need to be challenged about inconsistencies in our Christian walk. In return, the body is strengthened by the ministry of each member's unique gifts and fruitfulness, as each of us is edified towards an ever deepening relationship with Christ that continues to transform our lives and the lives of those around us.

Therefore, we covenant together to:

- **Attend Regularly**

- A member's pattern of attendance should be characterized by a commitment to the gatherings of the church. This means attending more than just the weekly worship gathering. A converted heart will long for the preaching of God's word and the fellowship of the church family.

- **Esteem the Lord's Table**

- The Lord's Table is a glorious reminder of the cross, and is a blessed privilege intended to preserve the harmony of our fellowship with Christ and each other. A member is expected to cherish this privilege and to be absent from these services only when providentially hindered.

- **Attend the Church's Members' Meetings**

- As a congregational church, our members' meetings are important times of decision-making or communication.

- **Pray Ferently**

- A member is expected to develop a habit of unceasing prayer, praying for the body corporately and individual members specifically. In addition, we are to pray fervently for the lost.

- **Give Faithfully**

- A member is expected to commit their time, energy, and material resources for the growth of our fellow members and the material needs of the church.

- **Evangelize Deliberately**

- A member is expected to embrace a willingness to be stretched outside of their comfort-zone in order to reap the joy of an ever increasing faithfulness to the Great Commission. In the power of God's strength, we cooperate with the local body to proclaim the Gospel within our local sphere of influence individually. As a body, we spread the gospel around our country and the world by providing support to missionaries or organizations of like faith and practice.