



## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Jesus didn't come to date a church. He came to bring home a bride—a people who know their creator intimately. Jesus committed himself to serving sinners, broken people in need of God's saving grace and power. Now he calls us into a similar commitment of relationship with other sinners. We use the words, "Membership Covenant" to describe our mutual commitment to "... spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Heb 10:24) and to "...encourage one another and build each other up..." (1Thess 5:11).

God has given the church a commission to "...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt 28:19-20). In order to accomplish these things we must be mutually committed to this command! Therefore, it is required of those who desire to be a member and co-laborer with this church family to affirm this commitment verbally or in writing. With this "Membership Covenant" we hope to clarify some vital areas that God desires to develop in us — his children.

Because of God's love and grace in my life to save me from sin and make me his child, I am committed to living in an intimate relationship with God and others so that the spiritual life described in this Membership Covenant is a growing and established reality in my life.

**1. I will prioritize my relationship with God above all else:** By knowing and trusting Jesus and God's love and grace, by dying to my self and sin and living by faith in the Son of God, by living a life of worship in response to God's amazing mercy.

- ❖ "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith." Phil 3:8-9
- ❖ "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Gal 2:20
- ❖ "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship." Rom 12:1

**2. I will know my true identity, value and worth is not in my hobbies, my career, my property, my family or even in my righteousness, but in Christ alone:** By knowing I am God's child, by trusting God and ceasing from a life of stress and worry.

- ❖ "God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption from God so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." 1 Cor 1:28-31
- ❖ "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" Rom 8:14-15
- ❖ "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Matt 6:25-29

**3. I will protect the unity of Jesus' church:** By communing with God and devoting myself to Jesus, by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip, by following the leaders (unless they are disobeying the Word).

- ❖ “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel” Phil. 1:27
- ❖ “The life [of Christ] was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father. . . [that which] we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ” 1 Jn 1:3
- ❖ “So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” Rom 14:19
- ❖ “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart” 1 Pet 1:22
- ❖ “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” Eph 4:29
- ❖ “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” Heb 13:17

**4. I will share the responsibility of Jesus' church:** By praying for its growth, by being present and faithful, by warmly welcoming and reaching out to strangers, by initiating relationships and living life with others during the week (fellowship and mission).

- ❖ “To the church...We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers” 1 Thess 1:1-2
- ❖ “not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Heb 10:25
- ❖ “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Rom 15:7
- ❖ “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. Acts 2:42-47

**5. I will serve Jesus' church:** By discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped by my pastors to serve and share the gospel, by developing a servant's heart.

- ❖ “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace” 1 Pet 4:10
- ❖ “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ” Eph 4:11-12
- ❖ “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not

count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men” Phil 2:4-7

**6. I will be on mission for Jesus’ church:** By inviting the lost to know Christ, by living a godly life, by giving regularly.

- ❖ “And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.’” Lk 14:23
- ❖ “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Pet 1:14-16
- ❖ “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Cor 9:6-8