

Platform Ministry Covenant

***NOTE:** please find each Scriptural reference in the Bible listed below and read them as you go through this Covenant

The platform is a special place in the church. It is a place of ministering to hungry, lost and dying souls, people who are carrying heavy burdens and people who come to God's house on the edge of life needing something from God. From the platform come the ministries of music, song, and preaching of the Word. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we keep the platform a holy and separated part of the church. Leaders must lead from a higher place of commitment. The church will only go as high as the leaders and being up front sets the tone of what a true, Apostolic Christians should look like and how they should live and present themselves. The Bible says that without holiness, no man shall see God. For leaders to be willing to separate themselves from the world and live a holy and clean life, at church as well as their everyday life, is our reasonable service to the Lord for all that He has done for us and how merciful He has been to us. As leaders and those that are on the platform in a public ministry position of any kind, we are His representatives, so therefore we must lead in worship, lead in holy dress and lifestyle not desiring to look like, act like, talk like or dress like the world or try to blend in with the world. God has called us to be a separated and holy people unto Himself and has stated clearly that without holiness, no man shall see Him or enter into Heaven without being holy, so it is not only imperative for our own soul salvation that we live holy and separated unto God but also for those around us that observe our lives, actions, deeds and spirit.

God is holy and holiness for humanity means that we must conform to the character and integrity of God. It means thinking as God thinks, loving what He loves, hating what He hates and acting as Jesus would act. Holiness involves separation from sin and worldliness and a complete dedication to God, His will and purpose. Holiness includes proper attitudes, thoughts and spiritual stewardship as well as proper actions, appearance and physical stewardship. Holiness means that we cannot love this ungodly world system, identify with it, become attached to the things in it or participate in its sinful pleasures and activities. "Know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity (hatred or against) with God?" (James 4:4) We must love the sinner and have a burden for their lost souls but we must separate ourselves from the sinful activities of the world that will separate us from God. The essence of true holiness is to produce spiritual fruit. (John 15:1-17, II Peter 1:3-9). Holiness involves having self-discipline to separate ourselves from the ways and sinful activities of the world having self-control and moderation in all things. We must pray, obey God's Word and resist temptation to sin. To become more holy, we must recognize the destructive nature of sin on our souls and in our lives, realizing that God hates sin and that we must work diligently to attain a higher standard of holiness and purity in our lives.

A holy person will seek the mind of God, will try to shun every known sin and keep the commandments of God, will strive to be like Jesus and will strive to bear the Fruits of the Spirit as shown in Galatians 5:22-23.

A holy person will strive to kill out the evil desires and lusts of their flesh, to curb their passions and to restrain their carnal inclinations.

A holy person will desire and follow after brotherly love with a spirit of mercy and benevolence toward others. A holy person will have a proper fear of God and a reverence for His Word, Spirit, ministry and church.

A holy person will follow after faithfulness to God being faithful to Him in church attendance, not robbing God of His tithes and offerings and being faithful to reach for the lost souls of this world to fulfill His Great Commission.

We must strive to think upon the things that are lovely, pure and clean realizing that what we think and what we allow our mind to dwell on is what we will become.

We must be careful with the use of our tongue and only allow holy words and words of edification to come forth. (James 1:26; 3:1-12, 4:11; 5:12)

We must guard what we allow our eyes to watch and see. (Psalm 101:3, 119:37; Matthew 6:22-23).

We must realize God desires and the Bible establishes principles of sex distinction in dress, modesty of dress, moderation, avoidance of vain ornamentation, jewelry, makeup, etc. that causes attention to be brought to us instead of the world only seeing Him thru us. Applying this to our modern culture, we must avoid dresses and shorts on men, pants and shorts on women, colored cosmetics that cover up our God given attributes and brings attention to a façade that is really not our true self, clothing that is too tight, too short or otherwise exposes the body which is the temple of the Holy Ghost and sinfully stirs up the fleshly nature in others. (Deuteronomy 22:5; I Timothy 2:9; I Peter 3:1-6)

Holiness includes men having short hair and women having uncut hair. (I Corinthians 11:13-15)

Holiness involves abstaining from alcoholic beverages which harm and intoxicate our body as well as tobacco products of all kinds which defiles and harms the temple that we ask the Holy Ghost to dwell in.

The Bible condemns all sexual relationships outside of marriage between one man and one woman and opposes lustful thoughts and actions that must be cleansed from our minds and hearts.

A holy person must be honest and reject all forms of dishonesty and corruption that includes lying, stealing, defrauding, refusal to pay debts, extortion, bribery and any type of cheating.

The Bible warns against loving the world so we must be careful to regulate our music, sports, games and amusements, avoid worldly activities and atmospheres where the Lord would feel uncomfortable and would not be pleased participating in, as well as rejecting worldly activities such as gambling, dance halls, bars and clubs, witchcraft, astrology and superstition.

We must live according to God's holy principles also listed in the following passages; (Proverbs 6:16-19, Matthew 15:19, Romans 1:29-31, Galatians 5:19-21, II Timothy 3:2-4).

We must guard ourselves against greed and materialism. We must endeavor to reach these goals because of God's holiness and command for us to be a holy people which then shows us to be holy and separated unto Him with our lifestyles, actions, spirit and appearance.

When the Lord called us out of darkness, filled us with the Holy Ghost and allowed us to be baptized in His name, He called us to a holy life separated unto Him, set apart from the world and for us to be a different looking, thinking, talking and acting people. Not that those on the platform are 'holier' than those who do not minister from the platform, only that they are in a place of constant example, and so we present this 'Platform Covenant' for you to read and prayerfully commit to abide by. This covenant is a lifestyle that we live not only while in church or on the platform, but at all times so that we may present a separated Christian life before a lost and dying world that is consistent and to shun the very appearance of evil outside of church.

In essence, holiness means to imitate Jesus, to do what He would do, act like He would act, only go where He would go, live according to His principles, to love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and to love and treat others as we want to be treated and as kindly as Jesus treats us.

All who wish to minister on the platform must be faithful in regular church attendance not putting other activities before church activities, including revival services, youth services where applicable, etc. and be faithful in not robbing God but by supporting His work in this local assembly with your faithful tithes and offerings.

Must have completed the FLC Orientation Class and be in the process of going thru an extended Bible study such as Search For Truth or whatever is deemed appropriate by the pastor.

Must also have read the book "Practical Holiness – A Second Look" by David K. Bernard.

Must have read and completed all prerequisites in the Platform Ministry Covenant, signed it and turned it in to the Pastor.

All:

Everyone ministering on the platform in this most visible public ministry role must:

1. have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in a new tongue as the Spirit gives the utterance.
2. have been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. actively participate in worship & support the pastor, or minister that he appoints for a service, as he preaches, teaches and leads the service.
4. commits not to cause distractions in service but will be a positive example and benefit to each service in worship and attentive support, not laughing, talking, passing notes, playing with cell phones or anything that distracts others and takes attention from the service and honor to the Lord.
5. live a life that shows a pattern of loving God, desiring to please Him and striving to grow in grace.
6. allow the Fruits of the Spirit to be manifested in your life as an outflow of your overcoming, successful walk with God.
7. be loyal to the church, the Pastor and ministers of the church as they follow Jesus. This means refraining from harmful conversation (gossip) about the church family or Pastor but will be a support, builder of people, a worshipper of God and a unifier of the church not sowing discord, disunity or tearing down God's people or His work
8. refrain from using profanity
9. not drink alcohol, use tobacco in any way, or use illegal drugs that would pollute the temple of God, your body
10. not view any form of pornography, whether it be internet, magazine, etc.
11. not visit bars or night clubs
12. be aware that platform ministry persons must be careful what type of music they lend their ears to. Rock and roll, pop, country, rap and any music with words and spirit that are not glorifying to God are harmful to our Christian walk and cannot be part of our spiritual diet.

Men:

Men used on the platform must have hair that is neatly cut at or above your collar, no facial hair such as goatees or beards or any hairstyles, clothing styles or worldly looks that would take attention & glory away from the Lord.

Please wear only long sleeve shirts and a tie on the platform if participating in a Sunday service.

It is permissible to dress in appropriate casual attire with no tie if participating in a Wednesday service.

Any other special services, please ask Pastor what the dress code will be for those services.

Platform ministry men should not wear shorts or inappropriate attire in public.

Men used on the platform and in platform ministry should not wear any jewelry; necklaces, earrings, piercings of any kind, etc. The only jewelry that is permissible is a wedding band and watch.

Please do not wear shorts or clothes that pertain to a woman or articles of clothing that allude to a feminine look but strive for Godly masculinity. Christian men should keep the differences between the sexes very obvious by always wearing attire that is not only holy but masculine in design.

Women:

Women used on the platform must not cut or trim their hair as this is her glory & protection over her family.

Platform ministry ladies should not wear any form of make-up that adds unnatural colors to your look and draws attention to self. A base of your natural skin color is permissible.

The painting of the fingernails or toenails is not permissible as these things are designed by the world to falsely beautify the body and bring approval and attention to the body which takes attention away from the Lord.

Platform ministry women should not wear any jewelry; necklaces, earrings, piercings of any kind, etc.. The only jewelry that is permissible is a wedding set and watch.

We should not decorate ourselves with silver or gold jewelry but we should put on the ornament of a meek and mild spirit as the Scripture urges Godly women to do.

Clothes worn by ladies on the platform must not be tight or see-through. Dress/skirt length must be below the knee so that if sitting on the platform, others cannot see your thighs or under your dress.

Slits in skirts should not be such that when you walk or sit you expose your thigh.

Please do not wear shorts, tank tops, sleeveless shirts or dresses or clothes that pertain to a man such as slacks or pants but strive for Godly femininity. Christian ladies should keep the differences between the sexes very obvious by always wearing modest skirts or dresses.

Ladies in platform ministry must not wear low necklines exposing cleavage or wear cropped shirts exposing the body. Sleeves should be of sufficient length so that when your hands are raised in worship to the Lord, you are not exposed in any way bringing undue attention to yourself and distraction to others.

Worship:

Outward, honest and heartfelt worship that flows from a heart full of love for the Lord, cultivated thru prayer, reading of God's Word, being faithful to His house and living according to His Word should be present in the involvement of each one on the platform.

Leaders cannot allow their feelings from problems in life to show on their faces, in their actions and body language and generally cast a negative light on worshipping the Lord.

Platform ministry persons should be engaged the entire service and not allow themselves to become disengaged and withdrawn either on the platform or when you leave the platform. Please strive to feel after the Spirit regarding ministering to others and be engaged in working the altars and helping pray with people in the altars during altar service if not playing or singing during altar service. Please be available and ready if asked by the Pastor to pray with someone and to minister to them. Strive to keep your spirit in tune with the Lord's Spirit during the service.

Leadership requires living, worshipping and giving of oneself at a higher level for the honor of the Lord. Others will only go as high as leadership is willing to go. If you want a worshipping church, you must consistently worship. If you want a church that is alive, you have to be alive in your spirit thru prayer, reading of God's Word and fervent pursuit of the Lord. If you want a happy church, you must show yourself friendly and happy. If you want a kind church, you must consistently show yourself kind and friendly both at church and outside of church. You cannot expect others to be engaged, excited and participating if you are not first leading in worship, displaying a pleasant disposition and fulfilling the role of Godly leadership that you are aspiring to. You cannot expect something from others that you are not willing to give yourself. You are the church; you cannot expect your church to be something that you are not giving or willing to be yourself.

Worship leaders must engage themselves in worship to the Lord with one of many examples being Psalm 150. Worship leading and being on the platform is not intended as a place to be seen but rather as a place to use your abilities to worship the Lord and lead others into His presence.

Standing emotionless, staring blankly unengaged, singing or leading as if a job and not ministry, looking around as if at a concert or excessive playing or conduct not conducive to leading in worship, blessing others and giving the Lord the ultimate praise and worship cannot find its place on the platform.

Also, platform ministry leaders must be faithful to church and must whole-heartedly support others even if you are not on the platform that service. If there is a singer singing other than you, you need to worship and support them just as you would desire them to worship with and support you. If you are leading a part of the service or ministering in some role, you will want others to support you, so you must be aware that if it's not you singing, leading, teaching, preaching or ministering in some role of platform ministry, you should still be engaged and support others as fervently as you would want to be supported yourself.

We bring honor and glory to the Lord by enthusiastically praising Him and being engaged and involved ourselves when it's us that's up front or even when we're not. We must worship the Lord because He is worthy of praise no matter how we feel and no matter what we're going thru; He is always worthy of our engaged, heartfelt worship and as we worship Him with our whole heart, we will bless others around us and support others that are involved in platform ministry at any given time.

As an example; if we have an evangelist come to preach for us that sits like a rock the whole service and won't become engaged in worship and supporting the service with his actions and spirit, yet when he takes the pulpit to preach, he suddenly wants everyone to jump to their feet and get excited and behind him because he's now ready to preach, many people will not appreciate his actions and will refuse to support his efforts. That's a selfish view and we need to be aware that first and foremost, the Lord is worthy of our heartfelt worship at all times no matter how we feel and that we should support our other leadership team members even if we're not on the schedule for that service to be on the platform. It's all for the glory of the Lord!

Pre-Service Prayer:

Each one involved in Public Platform Ministry must participate in the 30 minute pre-service prayer time before each service so that we are more in tune with the Lord's Spirit. For each service, please schedule all activities, pre-service preparations, etc. so that you can participate in this time of collective prayer together so that each service can have the positive eternal impact upon each one that comes that may be hurting, struggling and seeking to get closer to Jesus.

The Bible says the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth (brings forth and helps) much, so it is needful that we pray with feeling and fervency seeking the Lord's will and blessings for everyone for each service just as we would want others to pray fervently for us if we had a critical need ourselves. Sometimes reflective meditation is good but our pre-service prayer should be a time that we all come into the sanctuary and pray verbally in effectual, fervent prayer seeking the Lord for a personal touch as well as creating an atmosphere where He will feel welcome to come and touch us with His Holy Spirit. Please don't sit back uninvolved or un-passionately unattached. We need to put forth fervent effort to touch the throne of grace and be channels thru which the Lord can minister and move.

Conclusion:

None of these principles of holiness and godliness are meant to be hard or unreasonable. They are designed so that Jesus alone receives all the glory, receives all of the attention, that we don't dress or act in ways that would steal His glory or take the attention off of Him and that our church would be a place where He feels comfortable and welcome to come and touch with His Holy Spirit. He is our only hope and source of life.

Our jobs are to simply magnify Him in the hearts and minds of others, with all of our heart and ability, so that their faith can arise to a place that they can receive from Him what they need in their souls and so that we can be a holy and sensitive channel through which God's Spirit can flow.

We welcome you to the honor of holy platform ministry in His service.

Platform Ministry Covenant & Commitment Agreement

I have read the above Platform Covenant, understand all of the information and have:

- a) looked up and read all of the Scripture references contained in the above Platform Covenant
- b) completed the FLC Orientation class
- c) completed any Bible study assignments given by the Pastor if any
- d) completed the reading of the book "Practical Holiness – A Second Look" by David K. Bernard

I understand that if I do not willfully and humbly comply and live by the Godly principles of holiness, righteousness and separation from the world as outlined in this Platform Covenant and do not attain unto a leadership level lifestyle that God is calling us all to, I may be asked by the Pastor to refrain from public platform ministry until the issue/s in question are resolved.

I agree to follow the guidelines and Godly, holy principles that are asked of me by God and the Pastor as he follows God and to strive to grow spiritually for God's glory and the edification of the church.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Pastor Signature: _____