

CHURCH COVENANT ¹

(Spoken in unison prior to the serving of communion.)

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God,² to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior³ and, on the profession of our faith,⁴ having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,⁵ we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.⁶

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit⁷ to walk together in Christian love,⁸ to strive for the advancement of this church⁹ in knowledge,¹⁰ holiness,¹¹ and comfort;¹² to promote its prosperity and spirituality;¹³ to sustain its worship, and,¹⁴ ordinances,¹⁵ discipline,¹⁶ and doctrines;¹⁷ to contribute cheerfully and regularly¹⁸ to the support of the ministry,¹⁹ the expenses of the church,²⁰ the relief of the poor,²¹ and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.²²

We also engage to maintain family²³ and secret²⁴ devotion; to religiously educate our children;²⁵ to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;²⁶ to walk circumspectly in the world;²⁷ to be just in our dealings,²⁸ faithful in our engagements,²⁹ and exemplary in our deportment;³⁰ to avoid all tattling,³¹ backbiting,³² and excessive anger,³³ to abstain from the sale of, and use of, intoxicating drinks as a beverage;³⁴ and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.³⁵

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;³⁶ to remember one another in prayer;³⁷ to aid one another in sickness and in distress;³⁸ to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling³⁹ and Christian courtesy in speech;⁴⁰ to be slow to take offense,⁴¹ but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.⁴²

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.⁴³

You will note Scripture references are given along with the things which we promise. This is because the Covenant is not something in addition to, but the very teachings of God's Word put in the form of a covenant, vow, or promise.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21; 2 Chr. 15:12
2. John 6:63; John 16:7-11, 14
3. John 1:12; 1 Thess. 2:13
4. Acts 2:41; Acts 8:37
5. Matt. 28:19
6. 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Acts 2:42
7. John 14:26; John 16:13
8. Eph. 5:1-2; 1 Thess. 4:9
9. Eph. 2:21-23
10. 2 Pet. 3:18
11. 2 Cor. 7:1
12. 1 Thess. 5:14
13. Jude 20
14. Heb. 10:25
15. Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:24-25
16. Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:6
17. Acts 2:42; 2 John 9-11
18. 1 Cor. 16:2
19. Matt. 10:10; Gal. 6:6
20. Malachi 3:10
21. Acts 11:29; 2 Cor. 8:1-5
22. Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8
23. Deut. 11:18-20
24. Matt. 6:6
25. Eph. 6:4
26. Mark 5:19
27. Matt. 5:16; Eph. 5:15
28. Rom. 12:17
29. Eph. 4:25
30. Eph. 5:8
31. Eph. 4:31
32. 2 Cor. 12:20
33. Eph. 4:26
34. 1 Cor. 6:10; Eph. 5:18
35. Acts 1:8; Acts 8:4
36. Rom. 12:10; 1 Thess. 5:14
37. Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:25
38. Gal. 6:10
39. 1 Cor. 12:25-26
40. Titus 3:2
41. Rom. 12:19
42. Matt. 5:23-24; Matt. 18:15-18
43. Acts 18:27-28; Rom. 16:1-2; 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 3:23