

# Covenant

Having been led by the Holy Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and to confess Him as Lord, and on confession of this faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully covenant with one another, as one body in Christ, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to forsake the ways of sin and to walk together in Christian love and in the paths of righteousness. With this in view, we engage to strive together for both the peace and purity of this church; to sustain its worship and steadfastly to cherish and hold its ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute as faithful stewards such as time, talent and money in the measure that God prospers each of us, that the responsibility for the work of the local church and the world-wide ministry of spreading the Gospel be faithfully and effectively discharged.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to teach the Bible to our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances by actively sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ; to be just in our dealings and faithful in our engagements; to be exemplary in our deportment; to avoid unkind words and unrighteous anger; to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage and from every form of evil; to combine zeal and knowledge in our efforts to advance the cause of our Savior; to make Christ first in all things both spiritual and temporal.

We recognize our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and that we are servants of the Lord, and we, therefore, covenant to abide by the Bible's statements on all matters (such as faithfulness to church, personal and moral purity, marriage, and the home) and will do all we can to bring honor to our Lord through our fellowship in this church. We further promise to abstain from the practice or promotion in our church of the "sign gifts" (such as the gift of healing, speaking in or interpreting tongues, the gift of miracles.) We specifically promise to avoid the modern-day tongues movement in that it confuses Christians and divides churches by some claiming tongues are the evidence of the Holy Spirit's filling.

We further engage to give and receive admonition with meekness and affection; to remember each other in prayer, and to aid each other in case of sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the Scriptures, to seek it without delay; to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return.

We moreover engage that if we should move from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some local church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.