

A Church Covenant is the agreement between saved individuals by which they associate themselves into a local church, setting forth their mutual engagements as members of one body.

The Church Covenant

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and upon our profession of faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into the covenant with another as one body in Christ.
2. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promise to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to submit to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.
3. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children, to seek salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly *[to live wisely, morally, and cautiously]* in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.
4. We further engage *[occupy or concern ourselves]* to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.
5. We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith and order, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

THE TEACHING OF THE COVENANT

- I. The obligation of the individual is given in the first paragraph.
 - A. To be a saved person.
 - B. To received scriptural baptism.
 - C. Those who are saved and baptized enter into the covenant to form a church.

- II. The obligation of each individual to the church is given in the second paragraph.
 - A. “Walk together in Christian love.”
 - B. “To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort.”
 - C. “To promote its property and spirituality.”
 - D. “To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine.”
 - E. “To contribute cheerfully and regularly.”

- III. The family obligations of church members are given in the third paragraph.
 - A. “Maintain family and secret devotions.”
 - B. “To religiously educate our children.”
 - C. “To seek salvation of kindred and acquaintances.”

- IV. The relationship of church members to one another is given in the fourth paragraph:

“We further engage *[occupy ourselves]* to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy of speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.”

- V. The responsibility of the member when leaving the church is given in paragraph 5:

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