

INTRODUCTION

God's design

Creation

Fall

Redemption

We are given a New nature

"Saved, now what?"

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

"We commit to faithful participation in times of worship, prayer, study, and fellowship with other believers, to the building up of the church by using our spiritual gifts in ministry,"

FAITHFUL PARTICIPATION

What does faithful participation look like in a church?

1 Cor 12:27 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

As a body United we commit ourselves to faithful participation in...

1) WORSHIP

What is worship?

How do I know that I am offering authentic worship to the Lord?

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

How do I do that?

Psalm 103

Worship "in truth" connects the heart or spirit of worship with the truth about God and his work of redemption as revealed in the person of Jesus Christ and the Scriptures.

1 Peter 2:5 "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Our worship is centered in the knowledge of and obedience to the revealed Word of God.

We commit to participation in worship.

2) PRAYER

Prayer is an acknowledgment of the wisdom and power of God over all of creation.

Prayer is a reliance on our creator and redeemer.

Simple definition; "Tell the Lord what is on your heart at that moment."

How shall we pray for our brother?

Colossians 1:9-10

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

We commit to participation in prayer.

3) STUDY

Any discipline gains advantage.

We study God's word together that we might mine it for riches.

Pr 3:1-2 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

4:6-7. Do not forsake her (wisdom), and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

Rom 12:2. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

15:4. For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Ps 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Joshua 1:8. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

2 Tim 3:16-17. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

We commit to faithful participation in times of study.

4) FELLOWSHIP

What is fellowship?

We share an inheritance in Christ, we are destined together to an eternal joy in Christ.

When we are standing on our common ground, we experience true fellowship.

Hebrews 10:24-25

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 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.”

Hebrews 3:12-13

“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Is it possible to be hardened, to be deceived by sin?

1 Thes 4:18

“Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

What words?

We commit to faithful participation in times of fellowship.

5) DISCOVER AND USE YOUR GIFTS

1 Cor 12:4-7

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

So, gifts come through the Holy Spirit.

Does this mean we all have something, by the power of the Spirit, to contribute?

We commit to faithful participation by discovering and using our gifts.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING UP THE CHURCH

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” Jude 20

What is the purpose of our commitment?

How we approach worship, prayer, study, and fellowship affects the rest of the body.

We either bring something of value (our unity in Christ) or we are spectators.