



SESSION #5:

Kings Covenant

What is a church covenant? Why is it important?

WHAT IS A CHURCH COVENANT?

1. A church covenant is a **promise** - a promise made to God, to a local church, and to one's self.

2. A church covenant is a **summary** of how we agree to live. While our statement of faith (Baptist Faith and Message) is a good summary of what we believe, our church covenant is a summary of how we agree to live. Even more importantly, it is a summary of how God would have us live. It does not include every explicit command regarding obedience, but it does give a general summary of what it means to live as a disciple of Christ.

3. A church covenant is a **sign** of commitment - a commitment to God, to His church, and to personal holiness.

4. A church covenant is an **ethical statement**. A church covenant can be an important part of applying a Christian worldview to every aspect of our lives. Inherent in the purpose of a church covenant is the understanding that church membership involves being held accountable to live in a manner consistent with a common understanding of the Scriptures.

5. A church covenant is a **biblical standard**. A church covenant is helpful in a church that is practicing Biblical church discipline. As members of a church, we exhort one another to live holy lives, and we challenge brothers and sisters persisting in sin.

"A church covenant is a series of written pledges based on the Bible which church members voluntarily make to God and to one another regarding their basic moral and spiritual commitments and the practice of their faith."

Charles DeWeese

HOW DOES COVENANT MEMBERSHIP HELP THE CHURCH?

1. It **prevents** self-deception among church members. The church must help its members fight against sin and persevere in faith through accountability and love (Heb. 3:12-14).

2. It **protects** the witness of the church. A church covenant can protect the church from being tarnished by the non-Christian behavior of those who falsely profess faith (1 John 2:19, 3:9-10).

3. It **promotes** restoration of wayward members. Our church covenant's goal is to restore wayward members to a right relationship with God and warm fellowship with the church (Gal. 6:1).

WHY HAVE ACCOUNTABILITY?



At the basic level, accountability involves being responsible for your actions. Biblical accountability is a **loving act** in which believers can help restore one another to where God wants them to be and support one another in the battle against the deceitfulness of sin. Biblical accountability involves calling one another to **flee** from sin and **fight** for righteousness.

- **James 5:16** - Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
- **Galatians 6:1-3** - Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

"We must love people enough to do more than expose wrong, pronounce right, and walk away. Accountability requires a willingness to roll up our sleeves and get alongside people as they fight the war between sin and righteousness...We call people to exercise faith in new and deeper ways...We call them to new motives, purposes, and goals...We call them to make peace where there has been war...with long-term commitment and perseverance." - Paul Tripp

WHAT IS THE LOVING PURPOSE OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE?

There will always be sin in the church because we all sin. When we discuss church discipline, we are talking about how to deal with people whose lives are **characterized** by **persistent** sin. These are people who **agree** with their sin against God and His Word, and who try to rationalize their sin instead of pleading before God for forgiveness.

Our aim in exercising church discipline is...



1. To protect the **individual** from deceiving themselves about their own spiritual state.
2. To protect the **corporate witness** of the church from being smeared by the non-Christian behavior of professing believers.
3. To **restore** the disobedient person to right relationship with God and warm fellowship with the church.

KINGS BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT

Adopted July 2011

Having been brought by God's grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we now, depending upon the Holy Spirit, establish this covenant with one another:

1. In all we do, we will aim to glorify and enjoy the God of our salvation, from whom and through whom and to whom are all things: to Him be all glory forever! (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 11:36).
2. We will eagerly maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace by walking together in love and in the Spirit and by putting away all bitterness, anger, and injurious speech. (Eph. 4:3; Gal. 5:16, 25; Eph. 4:29, 31)
3. With humility and gentleness, patience and love, we will be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us. (Eph. 4:1-2; Luke 17:3; Col. 3:13; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Pet. 1:22)
4. We will joyfully engage in corporate and individual prayer for our faith family, our community, and our world (Eph. 6:18-20, Jas. 5:13-18; 1 Tim. 2:1-3, 8).
5. We will carry each other's burdens, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. (Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:15)
6. We will train our children in the instruction of the Lord, seeking to walk in a way that adorns the gospel of Christ before our family, friends, and neighbors (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; 1 Pet. 3:1).
7. We will live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in this present age, as we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Gal. 5:22-24; Titus 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:14)
8. We will not neglect to gather together, but will praise God, progress in faith and proclaim the truth through the support and treasuring of the biblical preaching of the whole counsel of God, the faithful observance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the loving exercise of church discipline. (Heb. 10:25; 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt 18:17; 1 Cor. 5:13).
9. We will steward our resources wisely, contributing cheerfully, generously and sacrificially to the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the advancement of the gospel both to our neighbors and the nations. (Matt. 28:19; Luke 12:33; 2 Cor. 9:7). We encourage the tithe as a benchmark from which we begin grace giving (Luke 6:38, 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9).
10. We will serve one another, using the gifts God has granted to us through the Holy Spirit that this fellowship would be built up in Christ (1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:7-16).
11. We will, when we move from this place, unite as soon as possible with some other church where we can carry out the principles of God's Word.

In all these things, we rely on our God who has made a new and everlasting covenant with us, saying, *"They shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. . . . I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good . . . with all my heart and all my soul."* (Jer. 32:38-41)

In and because of Jesus we pray, Amen.