

COVENANT MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

When anyone enters into relationship with God by grace through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, they are entering into two covenants. The first is to journey with God for the rest of their lives and love Him fully. The second is to journey with His other children in the community of the local church. Whether you realized it or not, you entered into covenant with Jesus and simultaneously with the rest of the universal church (all truly converted Christians in the world). To reflect our union with Christ and all Christians, we are called to make a concrete commitment to a group of Christians in our city, with whom we live our faith out together missionally and in covenant with one another. Your covenant membership in a church is an official recognition of this, and the purposes of the Redeemer Membership Covenant are:

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- 1. To join the Spirit in forming authentic community that reflects the relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit.**
 - 2. To clarify the ongoing blessings and responsibilities of each member.**
 - 3. To encourage consistency, accountability, and loving unity within the church family.**
 - 4. To accomplish God's call for the Redeemer church family.**
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This covenant does not imply that you will never fall short of the goals, but that the desire of your heart is to fulfill each of the responsibilities stated to the best of your ability. We trust that your commitment will be a personal blessing to your own journey in Christ, as well as a blessing to those around you.

WITH BIBLICAL CONVICTION & THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
**THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP AT REDEEMER
CHURCH COMMITS TO:**

1. We covenant ourselves to lovingly care for you and seek your growth in Christ
(*Hebrews 13:17; I Thessalonians 5:12*).
2. We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the Scriptures (*Galatians 6:6; I Timothy 5:17–18*).
3. We covenant that this teaching will span the whole counsel of God's Word (*Acts 20:27–28*).
4. We covenant to help you in times of need (*Acts 2:42–47, 4:32–35; James 2:14–17*).
5. We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures
(*I Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17–22; Titus 1:5–9; I Peter 5:1–4*).
6. We covenant to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (*James 5:14*).
7. We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (*Acts 20:28–31*).
8. We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary
(*Matthew 18:15–20; I Corinthians 5; Galatians 6:1*).
9. We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ (*Ephesians 4:11–13*).
10. We covenant to seek God's will for our church community to the best of our ability as we study the Scriptures and follow the Spirit (*Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:1–5*).
11. We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members
(*I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; I Timothy 4:12*).
12. We covenant to be good stewards and managers of the resources of this church
(*Acts 11:29–30; II Thessalonians 3:10–12*).

WITH BIBLICAL CONVICTION & THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,
**ALL COVENANT MEMBERS AT REDEEMER
CHURCH COMMIT TO:**

1. Abide in Christ daily through the reading of Scripture, prayer, and the practice of other spiritual disciplines.
2. Follow the example of Christ in personal holiness in all of life and pursue accountability from one another.
3. Announce and celebrate Christ's salvation by being baptized as a regenerate, confessing believer.
4. Remember Christ's work by regularly taking communion corporately at Redeemer Church.
5. Actively participate in biblical community that provides accountability with other believers and aligns with the vision and mission of Redeemer Church.
6. Consistently pray for one another and our church leaders.
7. Engage with the body through regular attendance and service at corporate gatherings.
8. Build one another up in the faith through God's word and the exercise of spiritual gifts in serving.
9. Grow in biblical generosity, by giving cheerfully, consistently, and sacrificially, prioritizing Redeemer Church's general offering for supporting Kingdom work.
10. Proactively declare and demonstrate the gospel to non-Christians.
11. Support and pray for people sent out by Redeemer Church to mission locally, nationally, and globally.
12. Pursue training opportunities through classes, conferences, seminars, and Covenant Member gatherings.
13. Refrain from speaking or acting in a manner that would weaken the unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ.
14. Teach nothing contrary to Redeemer Church's Doctrinal Statements and Elder Statements.
15. Submit to the care and direction of the elders of Redeemer Church, knowing they are charged by God with the responsibility of leading, feeding, and protecting our covenant members.

How This is Lived Out at Redeemer Church

Covenant Membership is a commitment to participate in the life of our family. Becoming a covenant member at our church is a formalized first step towards uniting your values with the expressed shared values of church elders and other covenanting members in this body of believers. A covenant member is different than a casual attender in our church in several distinct ways. More than just a title, a covenant member is asked to agree to several specific things. Let's look at what all covenant members at Redeemer Church are committing to.

1. Abide In Christ Daily Through The Reading Of Scripture & Prayer

Jesus says in Matthew 4:4 that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of God.” We want to be a disciplined people who seek God in the Scriptures every day. We want to depend on the Word of God in the same way we depend on food to nourish our bodies. Who has ever approached eating breakfast with a sense of duty? We don't eat breakfast out of duty. We eat breakfast because it nourishes our body and is usually an enjoyable experience!

Covenant Members at Redeemer Church acknowledge that we are dependent on Christ for everything. In John 15, Jesus says, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” But what does it mean to “abide in Christ?” The word “abide” means waiting, staying, dwelling, lingering, and remaining. To abide in Christ means we seek daily communion with Him through Scripture and prayer. We see the commands in Scripture to seek after God and our hearts cry, “Yes! I need that!” Disciples of Christ want to grow in intimacy with God and conformity to His Son. When at times that feels like a burden, we press into the Scriptures in faith, remembering God has commanded that we come to Him.

The command to abide in Christ is the command to find deep and lasting joy and pleasure. Who doesn't want that? Covenant Members at Redeemer Church agree to pursue pleasure in Christ by abiding in Christ each day through the reading of His Word and prayer.

2. Follow The Example Of Christ In Personal Holiness In All Of Life, & Pursue Accountability From One Another

This commitment means that we will submit to the authority of the Holy Spirit and repent when we don't. We will be sensitive to His conviction. We will surrender ourselves to the Scriptures, which the Holy Spirit will use as a means to develop our character and conform us more into the image and likeness of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. We will live in community with other believers and join smaller accountability groups where we confess sin, tell each other how God is moving, and pray.

3. *Announce & Celebrate Christ's Salvation by Being Baptized as a Regenerate, Confessing Believer*

Many people at Redeemer Church come from a number of different church backgrounds. Doctrinally, we believe that baptism is a joyful step of obedience that people should consciously take after they profess faith in Jesus.

While we honor and respect other traditions within Christianity, we believe and teach that only those who profess faith in Christ are candidates for baptism. If you decide to covenant with Redeemer Church but have not been baptized as a regenerate, confessing believer, we want you to talk with one of the pastors to discuss what it might look like for you to get baptized.

4. *Remember Christ's Work by Regularly Taking Communion Corporately at Redeemer Church*

Every week, all faith-professing people are invited to remember Jesus and His atoning work together at our Sunday gatherings. The ordinance of communion was established by Christ when He ate the Passover meal with His disciples in the upper room on the night He was betrayed. Like baptism, communion is an ordinance that is also symbolic. Communion is a symbol of the breaking of Christ's body (bread) and the shedding of His blood (juice).

When we take communion, we are calling to mind two greater truths. First, we are remembering the suffering and death of Christ on our behalf for our sins and God's wrath being appeased. This means Christ's act of redemption is complete and acceptable to God. Therefore, justification, propitiation, adoption, sanctification, and glorification are all offered to those who believe. Secondly, when we take communion we are remembering God's present work in us. To "remember" isn't just to imagine what it was like for Christ to die; there is substance to the body and blood. We remember the past work of Christ done for us, the present work of God being done in us, and anticipate His second coming.

"Proclamation" is the second way in which communion is a symbol. Look at verse 26: "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." So communion is more than remembering, it is also proclaiming. There are three things we proclaim with communion. First, we proclaim His death. Second, we proclaim His resurrection. This is not implicit but implied in verse 26, "...the Lord's death until He comes." If Christ died and is returning again then He must be alive. Communion proclaims the risen Lord. Lastly, we proclaim His second coming. Every time we take of the bread and cup we proclaim the returning King.

5. *Actively Participate in Biblical Community that Provides Accountability with Other Believers & Aligns with the Vision and Mission Of Redeemer Church*

Gospel Communities are one of the primary ways we shepherd our church body to be faithful disciples of Jesus and to grow toward Christlikeness, to care for one another and connect with the family of God.

The rhythms of Gospel Community that we have outlined help ensure accountability to the basic disciplines of the Christian faith. And a few times a year, we will work through content together under the direction of our elders to keep our entire church aligned. In some cases, covenant members may not be able to participate in a Gospel Community at Redeemer Church, but will pursue biblical community through other means.

6. *Consistently Pray for One Another & Our Church Leaders*

Our access to God in prayer reminds us that we don't worship some far-off deity. We worship a God who is intimately close to us. Prayer connects our hearts with His as we acknowledge that He is our Father and He is holy. He is the King and we live in His kingdom. He gives us everything we need, and everything that happens to us is working together for our good and we can trust Him. When we pray for one another, we take the call of interceding seriously, knowing that this is the preeminent work of the church—to pray—and that God hears the prayers of the righteous. When we pray for our leaders, we pray for their joy and perseverance, knowing they have been called by God to shepherd our souls.

We also remember that when God's people pray, He moves. He moves in ways that we can't possibly imagine, and He does more than we can even think to ask. So, what do covenant members at Redeemer Church do? We pray really big and bold prayers, knowing that we are speaking with a God who has unimaginable power to do anything He wants. We look at what God has promised to do in His Word, and we ask Him to do it. Our Father loves when His kids ask Him to do the things He has already promised to do. Prayer conforms our will to His.

7. *Engage Primarily with the Body Through Regular Attendance & Service at Corporate Gatherings*

Covenant Members at Redeemer Church are asked to commit to regularly attending and serving in some area of the church. We want to seek to be familiar with the faces of the members of our church, knowing our leadership and other covenant members. A covenant community will not exist if people are inconsistently meeting together.

8. *Build One Another Up in the Faith Through God's Word & the Exercise of Spiritual Gifts in Serving.*

At Redeemer Church, we believe that consistent involvement in community is imperative to the health of other people's souls. You are needed. God says that without your participation, the body of Christ will suffer. We believe that God has given each person unique expressions of His grace through various talents, giftings, and passions for the sake of serving one another and glorifying God. When we serve the body with our time and talents, we display our commitment to covenant community and we prepare our hearts for Heaven.

9. *Grow in Biblical Generosity, by Giving Cheerfully, Consistently, & Sacrificially, Prioritizing Redeemer Church's General Offering for Supporting Kingdom Work*

We are not saying that this is a commitment for a Christian, but rather it is what we are asking of covenant members. We all give our money to what we value and treasure. One of the ways we test our hearts is by giving generously. All money comes from God's provision, so our question should never be, "How much do I give?" but rather, "How much do I dare keep?" The New Testament example is to give everything and keep nothing for our own selfish desires.

If you don't believe in the mission of this church enough to give to it, then it probably isn't the mission God is calling you to. We call our covenant members that precisely because they are called to spend and be invested themselves on the mission this church has been called to. And spending yourself includes spending a portion of your income. As a covenant member, you're saying that you trust us with your time, your children, a portion of your money, and your role in the local church.

10. *Proactively Declare & Demonstrate the Gospel to Non-Christians*

Look all around you. People are dying, desperate, hopeless for good news. We believe the only one who will satisfy their souls is Jesus. To proactively declare the gospel means to simply open your mouth and share how important, how essential, and how supreme Jesus is. To proactively demonstrate the gospel means simply to serve and love, to serve and love, and to keep serving and loving even when it's inconvenient or people don't reciprocate. After all, this is what Jesus does for us.

Redeemer Church wants to take the name and Spirit of Christ into this city as well as to the nations, and that will only happen when we reach out in our spheres of influence and spend time declaring and demonstrating the gospel to those around us.

11. *Support and Pray for People Sent Out by Redeemer Church to Mission Locally, Nationally, & Globally*

Not only are we committed to sending workers into the harvest, we are committed to care for the people we send. By God's grace, Redeemer Church is actively engaged in mission in our city, our country, and all around the world. When covenant members support, advocate, and pray alongside our goers, they are directly participating with the mission of reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Covenant Members get to experience the joy of seeing God rescue people from the grips of death and sin in the farthest corners of the earth. All covenant members at Redeemer Church are asked to engage in the mission with us by supporting, advocating, and/or praying for those sent out by Redeemer Church to mission locally, nationally, and globally.

12. *Pursue Training Opportunities Through Classes, Conferences, Seminars, & Covenant Member Gatherings*

If every saint is called to be a minister of the gospel, then every saint must also pursue training and discipline to be an effective minister. God has given some believers in the church the task of equipping the saints so that the whole body might participate in the work of the ministry. But it is the call of every Christian to participate in God's work through the church. We value getting trained for ministry here at Redeemer Church not just so that we can say we know a lot about God, but so that we can put what we know about Him into practice for the edification and building up of the church.

13. *Refrain from Speaking or Acting in a Manner that would Weaken the Unity of the Spirit In The Body Of Christ*

Gossip is cancer to unity. It is not only hurtful to the individual, it is hurtful to the testimony of the church. Gossip has no place in carrying out the mission of Christ in our church. In order to discern if something is gossip, ask yourself if it is true, necessary, and beneficial. If it isn't, then it is probably dangerous to the unity of the Spirit and should be avoided.

Every day, churches around the world are dying from the cancer of disunity within their church. Therefore, covenant members at Redeemer Church agree to submit themselves to the accountability of other covenant members and can expect to be disciplined if they speak or act in a manner that weakens the unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ.

14. *Teach Nothing Contrary to Redeemer Church's Doctrinal Statements & Elder Statements*

This agreement pertains to all covenant members who will be serving our church in a teaching or preaching capacity through the ministry of our church. Because we desire unity and alignment in our equipping environments, Covenant Members agree to teach nothing contrary to the Redeemer Church Doctrinal Statements and Elder Statements. These documents are a foundational guide for all instruction, teaching, and preaching at Redeemer Church. You have had the opportunity to review Redeemer Church's Doctrinal Statement this week and bring any questions you have to the final session or your affirmation meeting.

15. *Submit to the Care and Direction of the Elders of Redeemer Church, Knowing they are Charged by God with the Responsibility of Leading, Feeding, & Protecting Our Covenant Members.*

Redeemer Church is a church that is led by a team of people known as elders. More will be said in the final session on the specific qualifications and roles that elders are required to fulfill, but partners are asked to submit to pastoral care and direction of the elders, which means when something is amiss in our lives, we seek out their guidance, help, and wisdom.