
Chesapeake Baptist Church

Membership Covenant

Updated 1/21/2018

Purpose

- To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for the members of Chesapeake Baptist Church.
- To establish teaching and doctrinal boundaries.
- To provide a tool for discipleship and spiritual growth.

Biblical Obligations of the Members of Chesapeake Baptist Church

Having been brought to repentance and faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, we will seek to glorify God and serve him by covenanting with fellow believers in this local church.

We will strive to love one another as Christ has loved us, and to exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require.

In agreement with this, *I covenant...*

- To submit to the Scriptures as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- To affirm the Basic Statement of Faith of Chesapeake Baptist Church and to faithfully evaluate all teaching and preaching in light of it.
- To pursue a relationship with Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship, and other spiritual exercises (Luke 18:1; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Ephesians 5:1-21; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; John 17:17).
- To follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances given to the church:
 - By being baptized by immersion after my conversion.
 - By regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Jesus Christ through the Lord's Supper.
- To regularly participate in the life of Chesapeake Baptist Church by attending weekly services, engaging in gospel-centered community, and by serving those inside and outside of the church (Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).
- To steward the resources that God has given me, including time, finances, gifts, and abilities. I will regularly support the ministry of the church through financial giving and service that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Matthew 25:14-30; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

- To walk in holiness by the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit as an act of worship to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13-16; 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 10:31). Believers should seek to put to death the sinful desires of the flesh, while stirring up love and good deeds through the Spirit. This includes these examples:
 - I will practice complete chastity until marriage, and if married will remain completely faithful within a monogamous and heterosexual marriage. Complete chastity and faithfulness means that I will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex, and pornography (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20; 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).
 - I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of reconciliation at Chesapeake Baptist Church before pursuing divorce (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11).
 - I will refrain from impairing my faculties with alcohol or drugs (unless for medicinal uses), gossip, and other sinful activities as dictated in the Scriptures (Romans 1:28-32; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:3-18).
- To take seriously the responsibility of Christian liberty, especially activities or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (Romans 14:14-23; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13).
- To submit to the discipline of God through his Spirit by following the biblical procedures:
 - When sin is evident in others – the goal being repentance and reconciliation.
 - Receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow members (Psalm 141:5; Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; Hebrews 12:5-11).
- To do the following when I sin
 - Confess my sins to God, and to fellow believers when appropriate.
 - To repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10).
- To submit to the elders/pastors/overseers and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for peace and unity within the church (Ephesians 4:1-3; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:5).
- To do the following if I leave the church for biblical reasons:
 - Notify the pastor or appropriate leader.
 - Seek another church that correctly preaches and teaches the Bible and unite with them in order to fulfill my Christian responsibilities.