

Membership Covenant

In order to join Jericho Tree Church, each member must sign a membership covenant. A covenant is simply a promise by which we obligate ourselves to one another (the member and the church) regardless of how well the other party holds up their end. In this covenant, you will find the commitments we as a church make to you, the member; then you will find the commitments that we ask of every person who joins this church.

We (Jericho Tree Church) commit to...

1. Pursuing and Loving Jesus

We will be sincere in our own faith, loving and seeking Jesus before any other and allowing him to lead this church regardless of the cost.

See 1 Peter 3:15, 1 Peter 4:11-14 & Matt. 6:24

2. Truth

We will teach and preach only that which is in line with the inspired Word of God. We also commit to not avoiding any scripture, but preaching the whole counsel of God.

See Acts 20:27-28, Gal 6:6, 1 Tim. 5:17-18 & 2 Tim. 4:2

3. Prayer

Through prayer we will seek the will of God, the welfare of the body and the advancement of God's kingdom.

See Matt. 7:9-13, Col. 1:9 & Mark 9:26-29

4. Equipping You

We will do our best to provide knowledge, resources, ideas and opportunities. We will equip believers with the tools necessary to grow spiritually, with opportunities to put their faith into real action, and to develop relevant skills for ministry (teaching, leadership, etc.)

See Eph. 4:11-13

5. Qualified Leaders

We will only appoint qualified Elders & Deacons in accordance with scripture.

See 1 Tim. 3:1-13, 2 Tim. 2:24-26, Titus 1:5-9 & 1 Peter 5:1-5

6. Protection

We will guard the flock of God against wolves of various kinds: sexual, theological, divisive, emotional and any other threat that attacks.

See Matt. 7:15, 2 Peter 2:1 & 2 Tim. 3:1-7

7. All the commitments asked of members

We will not ask of others what we are not willing to do ourselves.

Membership Covenant cont.

I (the member) commit to...

1. Pursuing and Loving Jesus (Salvation)

All members must first be Christians who love and pursue Christ. Since man is unable to see the heart, we know those who are truly Christians by the “fruit” that proceeds from their lives. We also know those who love and pursue Jesus by their practice of certain disciplines: prayer, scripture reading and memorization, confession of sins, and participation in the fellowship of God’s people.

See Gal. 5:22-26, 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Psalm 119:11, Psalm 1:1-3, James 5:16, Heb. 10:24-25

2. Scriptural Authority

All members will commit to holding the scriptures as the highest authority in every aspect of life (ex. conflict resolution, doctrine, purity, etc.). Historical writings, personal experiences and books by pastors will all be secondary sources that must be submitted to the truth in the Word of God.

See 2 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 4:12, Prov. 30:5 & Isa. 55:11

3. Faithful Attendance

All members will commit to attending both large gatherings (worship services) and small ones. No standard of perfection is expected, but God has built us to be interdependent on one another. We also ask all members to not be regularly attending other churches. The reason for this is to guard the unity of the body (protecting it from division), and even more so for the availability of the member to commit to the work being done here.

See Heb. 10:24-25, 1 Cor. 12:12-22 & John 17:20-23

4. Generosity

All members will commit to giving generously of themselves for the good of the church and the kingdom of God. In the Old Testament, the offering expected of the Israelites was 10%. While that may still be a benchmark, of sorts, in the New Testament, the standard is simply generosity. We are to be generous with our money, our time, our energy, our talents, and any other resource God has given us. This will happen in part directly through Jericho Tree, but generosity does not stop there. We are all called to a sacrificial life that looks to the interests of others above our own. Moreover, God loves to see a spirit of cheerful giving in his people. He takes no pleasure in a giver with a grudge. Here’s how we define generosity: Giving not what you can spare, but what you can sacrifice. Few people ever feel they have much (if anything) to spare.

See Phil. 2:3-7, Psalm 37:21, Prov. 14:21&31, 1 Tim. 6:18 & Acts 4:32-37

5. Unity

All members will commit to reading and agreeing to the three tier doctrinal stance of the church. Members will also commit to avoiding gossip, slander and anything else that could cause division in the body of Christ.

See Eph. 4:2-4, John 17:20-23, 1 Cor. 12:12-22 & 2 Cor. 12:20

6. Submission to Biblical Church Discipline

All members will commit to submission to biblical church discipline, up to and including cutting off fellowship with one who has been removed from the church, in order that God might convict and restore the person to repentance.

See 1 Cor. 5:1-2, 2 Cor. 2:5-11, Gal. 6:1, Prov. 25:12, 1 Tim. 5:1-2, Tit. 2:15 & Rev. 3:19

7. Purity

All members will commit to purity in their manner of living, this should manifest itself with regard to their sexual life: cohabitation, homosexuality, pornography, prostitution and fornication (avoiding these), and in other areas: drugs, drunkenness, vulgar language, materialism or other behavior which is condemned by the Bible, and/or conscience (avoid these also). Instead the Christian will pursue whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, or praiseworthy.

See Eph 5:3-5, Col. 3:5-10, Phil. 4:8 & John 2:15-17

8. Action

All members will commit to being engaged in some way in the mission of God to impact this world for his purposes. This includes, evangelism, discipleship, giving financially to missionaries and mission trips, and most of all using one's God given gifts and talents to glorify God. We don't ask everyone to do everything, but God does ask everyone to do something. God has called all of us to be not hearers only, but doers of the Word. He's called us to action!

See Matt:28:18-20, 1 Pet. 4:10-11, 2 Cor. 5:17-21, 1 Cor. 12:29-31 & 14:1 & Rom. 12:5-8

Name _____

Date _____