



Welcome to FIRST CLASS

Church Covenant

¶s 1-3

Week Two

Slide 1 of 26

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Connecting One with Another

Where were you born and
where did you grow up?

Slide 2 of 26

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What's the difference between?

Member and Attender

Slide 3 of 26

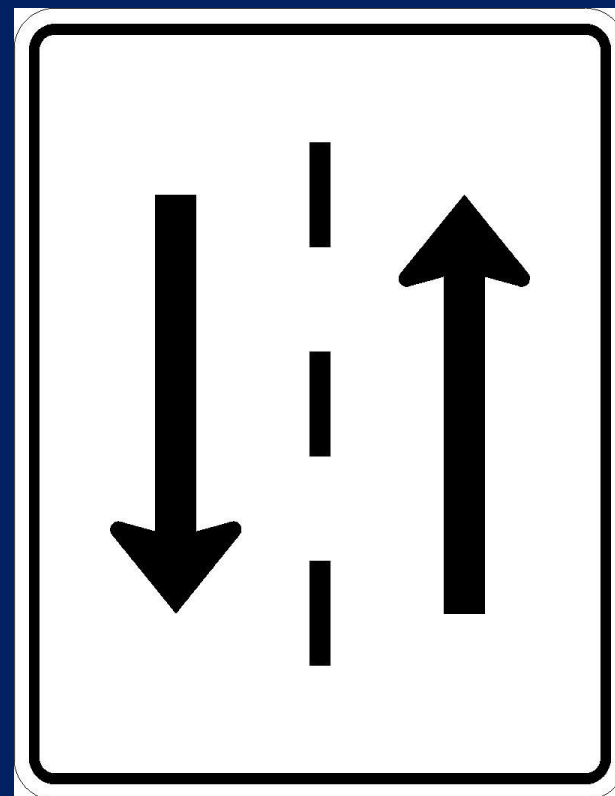
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Expectations



- What are your expectations of the church for you and your family?



Slide 4 of 26



What is a Covenant?

Slide 5 of 26

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Covenant



- A formal, solemn, and binding agreement
- Written agreement or promise usu. under seal between two or more parties
 - esp. for the performance of some action

Webster

Slide 6 of 26



Covenant



- Noahic
 - 1st Covenant Established in Bible
 - God and Noah
- Abrahamic
- Mosaic
- Davidic
- New Covenant

God and
Man
Covenants

Slide 7 of 26



New Covenant



- Hebrews 12:24
 - And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of Abel*.
- **All members of the body of Christ—the universal church—are in the New Covenant with Jesus as the mediator**

Slide 8 of 26



Covenant



- Ezra 10:3
 - Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away.....

This is a biblical example of man initiating a covenant with God.



Church Covenant



“A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.”

Baptist Faith and Message

Slide 10 of 26

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Church Covenant



A church covenant is a summary of how we agree to live. While our articles of faith outline what we believe, our church covenant is a summary of how we agree to live – 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 in Berean Baptist Church.

Slide 11 of 26

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Ethical Statement



- A church covenant is an ethical statement.
- **Historian Charles W. DeWeese writes,**
 - “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”

Baptist Church Covenants

Slide 12 of 26

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Biblical Standard



- 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.



What would be the most important thing to you about a church covenant?

It must be biblical!

Slide 14 of 26

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One Another



- Church is a community of Believers
 - A City within the City
- **John 15:12**
 - This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
- The covenant articulates how we do this



Introduction



As a bond of unity among us, Berean Baptist Church accepts for its members the following covenant:

Slide 16 of 26



Introduction



¶ #1 Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and upon our profession of our faith in Him, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

Slide 17 of 26

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Introduction



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Slide 18 of 26

Baptism



- Baptism by immersion after salvation is a requirement for membership:
 - We reject the validity of any form of infant baptism
 - We reject the validity of any form of sprinkling, pouring or anything other than immersion
 - Only converts of Christ should be baptized





Our Strength



¶ #2 We fully realize that the strength to uphold this covenant comes from

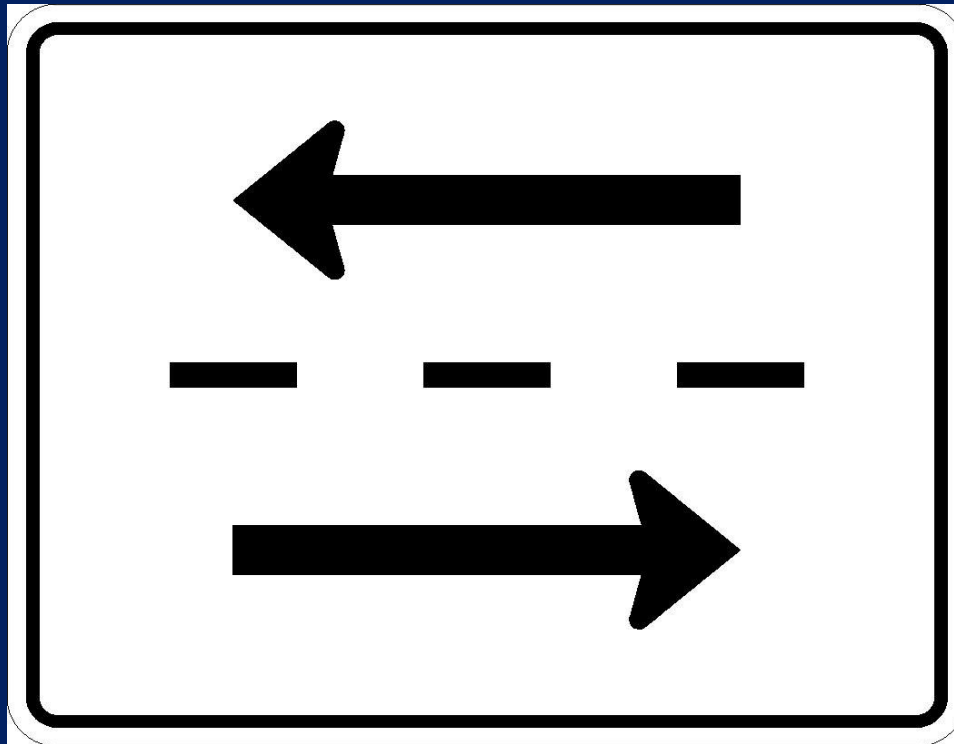
- the grace of God our Father,
- the shed blood of God the Son, and
- the power of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

Slide 20 of 26

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Promises = Expectations



Slide 21 of 26



Our Promises



- ¶ #3 We promise to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity; to faithfully abide by the doctrines and behaviors outlined in this church's Articles of Faith; and to give cheerfully of our time, talents, and finances for the support of this ministry and its missionaries.

Slide 22 of 26



Our Promises



- Walk together in Christian Love
- Forgiving One Another is Implied

– Read Matthew 18:21-22



Our Promises



- to strive for the advancement of this church's spiritual growth and unity
– Read Proverbs 6:16-19



Questions & Comments

Slide 25 of 26

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Homework

Slide 26 of 26

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