

COMMUNITY COVENANT



PREFACE

Our mission is to minister the love of Jesus Christ to the Least, the Last, and the Lost. Our community members include the formerly homeless who are known as students, volunteer staff, paid staff, board members, and key ministry partners. Along with the privileges and blessings of membership in our community come responsibilities. We are not a church, but a para-church organization with a community of Christians who seek to live according to biblical standards. In order to fulfill our mission and purposes, the members of our community voluntarily enter into this covenant and embrace it sincerely.

The purposes of our Community Covenant are as follows:

- To foster a community that facilitates spiritual awakening and growth, redemption, recovery, healing and financial self-sufficiency.
- To daily devote our lives to Jesus Christ and to remove whatever may hinder us from His calling.
- To encourage one another to see that living for Christ involves dependence on God's Spirit and obedience to his Word, rather than a passive acceptance of prevailing practices.

Not a list of rules; but a statement of holy obligations joyfully chosen by forgiven sinners saved and changed by grace through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our All in All.

Our Affirmation of Biblical Standards

Our Community Covenant embraces the following truths set forth in the Bible:

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NASB)

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12 NASB)

The biblical foundation of community begins with Jesus' two great commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-40 NASB).

Acknowledging our dependence on the power and grace of God, the members of this community humbly covenant to live according to this ideal.

Our Commitment to Living the Christian Life

We believe these biblical standards will show themselves in a distinctly Christian way of life, an approach to living we expect of ourselves and of one another. This lifestyle involves practicing those attitudes and actions the Bible portrays as virtues and avoiding those the Bible portrays as sinful.

According to the Scriptures, followers of Jesus Christ will:

- ♥ Love God with our whole being and love our neighbor as ourselves. Christ-like love should drive all decisions, actions, and relationships (Matt. 22:37-40; Rom. 13:8-10; 1 John 4:7-12);
- ♥ Acknowledge the Lordship of Christ over all of life and thought, through wholehearted obedience to Jesus and careful stewardship in all areas of life: time, possessions, God-given capacities, and opportunities (Deut. 6:5-6; 1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 1:18; 3:17);
- ♥ Show evidence of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, such as "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23);
- ♥ Seek righteousness, mercy and justice, particularly for the helpless and oppressed (Prov. 21:3; 31:8-9; Micah 6:8; Matt. 23:23; Gal. 6:10);
- ♥ Love and side with what is good in God's eyes, and hate what is evil in God's eyes (Amos 5:15; Rom. 12:9, 16:19);
- ♥ Uphold the God-given worth of human beings, from conception to death, as the unique image-bearers of God (Gen. 1:27; Psalm 8:3-8; 139:13-16);
- ♥ Treat our own bodies, and those of others, with the honor due the very temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17-20);
- ♥ Pursue unity and embrace ethnic diversity as part of God's design for humanity. (Isa. 56:6-7; John 17:20-23; Acts 17:26; Eph. 2:11-18; Col. 3:11; Rev. 7:9-10);
- ♥ Uphold chastity among the unmarried (1 Cor. 6:18) and the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman (Matt. 19:5; Heb. 13:4); flee from pornography, adultery, and homosexuality (Matt. 5:27-30; Rom. 1:26-27);
- ♥ Participate in the worship and activities of the local church, which forms the basic biblically-mandated context for Christian living (Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:25; 1 Tim. 3:14-15);
- ♥ Respect and submit to authority and rules, work as unto the Lord and do all things to the glory of God (Rom. 13:1-2; Eph. 6:7; 1 Cor. 10:31);
- ♥ Be people of integrity whose word can be fully trusted (Psalm 15:4; Matt. 5:33-37); and
- ♥ Give faithful witness to the Gospel (Acts 1:8; 1 Pet. 3:15), practice good works toward all (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:10; Heb. 10:24; 1 Pet. 2:11), and live lives of prayer and thanksgiving (1 Thess. 5:17-18; James 5:16; Titus 2:7-8).

Conclusion

We desire to be a covenant community of Christians characterized by integrity and dynamic, Christ-like love, a place where the name of Jesus Christ is honored in all we do.

"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things." (Philippians 4:8 NASB)

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