

Covenant Membership Packet



CALVARY



VISION

To make Jesus _____ in _____
and to the _____ of the earth.

MISSION

To _____ God by making _____,
passionate _____ of Jesus Christ.

4 CORE COMMITMENTS



_____ God _____



_____ with one another _____



_____ to know God _____



_____ and _____ the
Gospel _____

WHAT IS THE CHURCH AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE

The church is the gathering of God's redeemed people, existing as brothers and sisters adopted into God's family, who live for God's glory, the joy of God's people, and the advancement of His kingdom.

Scriptures uses several different images to convey the true nature of the church. Paul compares the similarities between the church and a marriage, explaining Christ's love for the church and the church's submission to Him (Eph. 5:22-30). Paul also uses the metaphor of the church as a human body, where each person is different with a different role, but all are essential (Rom. 12:4-8). The church is a new, spiritual temple with Christ as the cornerstone (1 Pet. 2:4-7; Eph. 2:20). Broadly speaking, the church is the universal community of true believers gathered throughout all time (Eph. 1:22-23).

The commission given to the church by Jesus is, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20). This is the ongoing work and mission of the Church, and therefore, of all churches. In the midst of this work, the church must be doing three things: worshipping God and bringing glory to Him (Ex. 20:3-5; Eph. 5:18-20); fellowshiping regularly to nurture brothers and sisters into maturity in Christ, and to care for them in difficult times (Eph. 4:11-13; Acts 2:42-47; Jas. 2:14-17); and ministering to those outside of the church in word (proclamation) and deed (action) (Acts 1:8; Matt. 25:31-46; 1 Peter 2:12). In regard to this last aspect, it is important to realize that this is not a dual or even competing work of making people's hearts better (evangelism) and making their lives better (social concern). Both flow out of a holistic, gospel work in the life of the believer that bears witness to the kingdom of God.

WHAT IS A COVENANT

A covenant is a promise; we obligate ourselves to one another in such a way that the obligation of one party is not dependent on the faithfulness of the other (Ezek. 20:44; 36:22; Ps. 76:11; Hos. 2:19-20; 3:1; 2 Tim. 2:13). A covenant is what we use to describe the vows between a husband and wife, and between God and his people.

As those who have experienced the grace of a life changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ, we have the opportunity to reflect the character of Christ through the pursuit of certain attitudes and actions and the rejection of others. The Scriptures refer to this reality as "living by the Spirit" (Romans 8). The requirements of this membership covenant are in no way intended as an addition to the biblical obligations of a believer. Rather, this document functions primarily as an accessible, yet non-exhaustive, explanation of what the Scriptures teach about the obedience that faith produces. In addition to the following covenantal commitments, partners should be in wholehearted agreement with the

Statement of Belief, and should agree to avoid divisiveness and teaching in contradiction to Calvary Restoration's Statement of Belief.

If at any time an individual member feels as though the corporate church body is not remaining faithful to the requirements of the covenant, it is the responsibility of the individual member to lovingly and humbly express concerns to the leadership of the church. If the church elders are unwilling to change and pursue covenant faithfulness, then the member is freed from his or her membership obligations and encouraged to seek membership elsewhere given the church's disobedience. In addition, certain circumstances may provide sufficient and righteous grounds to transfer membership elsewhere.

WHAT IS MEMBERSHIP AND WHY DOES IT MATTER

The Bible uses the metaphor of a body to describe the church: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Cor. 12:12). It's a beautiful picture of how we're each created to serve different functions: we need everyone working together in order to be a healthy body, and all of us as separate parts find purpose and unity under Jesus, "the head of the body" (Col. 1:18). Members make up the church (Eph. 2:19-22).

At Calvary, we want to welcome, love, include, and care for all people regardless of where they are with God or whether or not they are members. However, membership helps us effectively define who Calvary is. This is important both in terms of defining who we are on mission together, as well as who "the flock" is (1 Pet. 5:1-2). Members participate as the church: sacrificing time, talents, and treasure; committing to the care and community of their fellow members; and submitting to the authority God has established to lead our congregation.

The church of Calvary is a family, adopted by God (Gal. 4:6-7; Eph. 1:5). We care for each other, pray for each other, and serve together. If you're already a Christian, if you're already in some form of Calvary community, or if you're already giving of your finances and your time, then you're already fulfilling some functions of a member. Taking the step to become a member at Calvary is a statement of your commitment to investing in the body through ministry and investing in the world through mission. In like manner, through membership our church body commits to you, to love you, build you up and equip you for the work of ministry (Eph. 4:12). If you're not a Christian, don't worry about membership until you've been reconciled to God through Jesus. If you are a Christian who has spent a lot of time at Calvary, however, membership is the appropriate next step.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The following beliefs represent the core of central orthodox beliefs from a biblical and historical perspective. While a full understanding and ability to articulate these beliefs is not required, the explicit rejection of any one of these particular beliefs disqualifies one from membership at Calvary Restoration Church.

1. The Word of God

The Scriptures are the true, inspired, authoritative Word of God and sufficient in matters of faith and practice. (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

2. The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6; Isaiah 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5)

The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. The Father is neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is neither the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7; Psalm 110:1; Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:17-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

3. Total Depravity

I am, along with all humanity, by birth and action, a sinner. Man and woman were created in the image and likeness of God, but through Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; humans are totally depraved and by ourselves, utterly unable to remedy our lost condition. (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23; 5:8, 12-21; 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3)

The deserved penalty for sin is death, both physical and spiritual. (Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12; 6:23; James 1:14-15)

4. Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. (Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, 14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3)

Jesus Christ died as my substitute to pay the penalty for my sin. (John 1:29; 10:1-18; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18)

We believe in His substitutionary atoning death on the cross, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth where He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John 1:20-21:25; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7)

5. Salvation

Salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. Only by trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone can I be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy. (John 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

6. Sovereignty of God

God is sovereign over all things. There is nothing that surprises God, and there is nothing that is out of His control (Psalm 29:10; Isaiah 46:9-10; Colossians 1:16-20; Hebrews 4:13)

7. The Last Things

There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Those who trust in Jesus Christ alone will be raised to eternal reward. Those who have not trusted in Jesus Christ will be raised to eternal punishment (Matthew 25:31- 46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)

COVENANT OF CALVARY CHURCH TO ITS MEMBERS

- We covenant that your pastors, elders, and deacons will meet the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures (1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-22; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- 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; 1 Peter 5:1-5).
- We covenant to care for you and seek your growth as a disciple of Christ, in part by equipping you for service (Eph. 4:11-13) and praying for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (James 5:14).
- We covenant to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture (Acts 20:27-28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-18).
- We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
- We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15- 20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
- We covenant to set an example and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12).

COVENANT OF THE MEMBERS TO THE CALVARY CHURCH BODY

My commitment to Christ and to other members of Calvary Restoration Church will be evident through my engagement in:

- 1. Sunday worship service.**
- 2. Life Group (Community Group).**
- 3. Serving regularly.**

(Ps. 105:1-2; Ps. 119:97; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; Titus 3:14)

- I covenant to submit to the authority of Scripture as the final arbiter on all issues (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- I covenant to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ through regular Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of spiritual disciplines (Luke 18:1, Acts 17:11, 1 Cor 9:24-27, Eph 5:1-21, 1 Thess 5:12-22).
- I will pursue reconciliation when offense occurs between myself and another member (Matt.18:15-17; 2 Cor. 12:20; Pro. 26:20).
- I will steward the resources God has given me, including my time, talents, and treasure (Prov. 3:9-10; Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:22-26; Eph. 4:1-16; 5:15-18). This includes regular financial giving, service, ongoing prayer for the church and its leaders, and participation with others in the church community that is sacrificial, cheerful, and voluntary (Rom. 12:1-8; 2 Cor. 8-9; 12:7-31; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
- I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Heb. 13:17).
- I covenant to submit to discipline by God through his Holy Spirit, to follow biblical procedures for church discipline in my relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ, to submit to righteous discipline when approached biblically by brothers and sisters in Christ, and to submit to discipline by church leadership if the need should ever arise (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 2:5-8; Gal. 6:1-5 8; 1 Tim. 5:20; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 1:9; 3:10-11; Heb. 12:5-11; Rev. 2:5-7, 14-25).

- I agree, by God's grace, to seek to walk in holiness as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, who has saved me from my sin that I could live a new life (2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 4:1-3):
- I will practice complete chastity before marriage and complete fidelity in heterosexual, monogamous marriage by abstaining from practices such as adultery, cohabitation, pornography, and premarital sex (Job 31:1; Prov. 5; Rom. 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-7:16; Heb. 13:4).
- I will seek to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to seek reconciliation in my marriage with the help of pastoral counseling at Calvary Restoration before pursuing divorce from my spouse (Matt 19:1-12, Mark 10:1-12, Luke 16:18, 1 Cor 7:10-11).
- I will refrain from illegal drug use, drunkenness, and other sinful behaviors that the Bible dictates with the help and council of my pastor-elders (1 Cor. 8:7; Gal. 5:19-21). Should I sin in such a manner, I agree to confess my sins to Christian brothers or sisters and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; 1 John 1:6-10).
- I will to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish (Rom 14:14-23). I will take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another (1 Cor 8:1-13; Gal 5:1).

THE CALVARY MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

I understand that this covenant obligates me to the members of Calvary Restoration Church and is an acknowledgement of my submission to the elders and deacons of the church. I accept the responsibility to notify Calvary's leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding Calvary Church.

I affirm that I have trusted in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and in obedience to Him I have been baptized by immersion in water.

Name(s): _____

Signature: _____

Spouse Signature (if applicable): _____

Date: _____ Contact Information: _____

Additional Information:

1. Tell us your story of how and when you became a Christian:

2. Tell us about your church history. Have you been part of a church congregation recently? If so, what congregation? What are your reasons for leaving that congregation?