

Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ (Jn. 1:11-12; Mt. 28:19-20).

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the spread of the gospel.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of non-medical and destructive drugs and intoxicating drinks as a beverage, to shun sinful entertainment; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place for reasons that are proper according to the New Testament, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other independent, Baptist church of like faith and order, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

That these obligations outlined in this Covenant are all Scriptural may be seen as follows:

I. Salvation and Baptism (Jn. 1:11-12; Mt. 28:19-20).

II Duties to the Church.To walk together in Christian love (Jn. 13:34-35)

- To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality (Phil. 1:27; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Pet. 3:11).
- To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine (Heb. 10:25; Mt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 11:23-26; Jude 3).
- To give it pre-eminence in my life (Mt. 6:33).
- To contribute cheerfully and regularly (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:1-24).
- To transfer my membership when I move and be active in church work wherever I live (Acts 11:19-21; 18:24-28).

III. Duties in Personal Christian Living.

- To maintain family and secret (personal) devotion to Christ and His church (1 Thess. 5:17-18; Acts 17:11).
- To religiously educate the children (2 Tim. 3:15; Dt. 6:4-7; Psa. 78:5-7; 48:13).
- To seek the salvation of the lost (Acts 1:8; Mt. 4:19; Psa. 126:5-6; Prov. 11:30).
- To walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment (Eph. 5:15; Phil. 2:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:11-12).
- To avoid gossip and excessive anger (Eph. 4:31; 1 Pet. 2:21; Col. 3:8; Jas. 3:1f).
- To abstain from the sale or use of alcoholic beverages and non-medical drugs (Eph. 5:18; Hab. 2:15).
- To abstain from sinful entertainment – activities and media forms like television, movies, music, etc. that promote sinful living and/or sinful philosophies (Psalm 101:3; Phil. 4:8).
- To be zealous in our efforts for Christ (Tit. 2:14).

IV. Duties to Fellow Church Members.

- To watch over one another in love (1 Pet. 1:22).
- To pray for one another (Jas. 5:16).
- To aid in sickness and distress (Gal. 6:2; Jas. 2:14-17).
- To cultivate sympathy and courtesy (1 Pet. 3:8).
- To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation (Eph. 4:30-32).