



The Resolved Church

Membership Covenant

Psalm 37:3-5 ³*Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.* ⁴*Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.* ⁵*Commit your way to the Lord;*

Why a Membership Covenant?

1. Covenant is the means through which God works.
 - God covenanted with Abraham, Moses, and David about sending the Messiah (Gen. 17; Ex.19-24; 1 Chron. 17).
 - Jesus covenanted salvation with us through His blood shed on the cross (1 Cor. 11:25).
 - Christian Spouses covenant with God to each other and their children (Eph. 5:22-33; 6:1-4).
 - A church family is also a covenant with God to each other (Eph. 4:15-16).
2. The Bible describes a form of covenantal membership in action.
 - A numerical record was kept (Acts 2:37-47).
 - Records were kept of widows (1 Tim. 5:3-16).
 - Discipline was carried out (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
 - Elders will be held accountable for members (Heb. 13:17)
 - There was an awareness of who was a church member (Rom. 16:1-16).
3. Our culture is one which necessitates covenant membership.
 - Whether it is family get togethers, a house loan, a job position, or a softball team...today's culture is one that uses membership as a means of identification, commitment, and passion.
 - Church culture today is notorious for an individualistic and consumeristic mentality when it comes to Jesus' church and needs to be redeemed into a communal and servanthood mentality of membership.
4. Church membership is the gospel at work.
 - Jesus fulfilled the law so that we might be free from coercion and manipulation that would cause us to try and earn favor with God through duty. Church membership is following Jesus in the building up of his church (Matt 5:17; 16:18).

What is a Covenant?

- The word "covenant" comes from the Hebrew word *berith* and means to make a cut, pact, promise or agreement. The Bible describes covenant in Genesis 15 where the terms are set, an animal is cut in half, and the two parties walk in-between the two animal halves in a figure eight form to say if either of us break these terms may it be done unto you as this animal.

What is a Member?

- The word "member" comes from the Greek word *melos* and means a part or a limb that contributes to a body. The Bible describes the church family (Gal 6:10) as a body of believers, under the headship of Jesus Christ, who mutually contribute to the spiritual health and progression of the church (Eph 4:15-16).

- First, to be a member is to be a member of Jesus, which means trusting that on the cross Jesus died in your place to satisfy the eternal debt of wrath you owe to God for your sin (propitiation). This places you within the global, universal, invisible, family of believers throughout all time.

- Second, to be a member is to be part of a specific family of people who are growing and building up into Jesus together. Thus members are ministers to their families, friends and church and then as missionaries to our city. This places you within a local, individual, visible expression of the body of Christ.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, the church leadership covenants the following:

1. We commit ourselves to lovingly caring for you and seeking your growth in Christ (Heb. 13:17; I Thes. 5:12).
2. We covenant to provide teaching, preaching and counsel from the Scriptures (Gal. 6:6; I Tim. 5:17-18).
3. We commit to teach you the whole counsel of God's Word (Acts 20:27-28).
4. We commit to give you no reason for shame but to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim 2:15)
5. We commit to helping you in times of need (Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35, Jm. 2:14-17).
6. We covenant that your elders and deacons will meet the qualification required of them in the Scriptures (I Tim. 3:1-13 & 5:17-22, Titus 1:5-9, I Pt. 5:1-4).
7. We covenant to pray for you regularly, particularly when you are sick (Jm. 5:14).
8. We covenant to be on guard against false teachers (Acts 20:28-31).
9. We covenant to exercise church discipline when necessary (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1).
10. We covenant to help you become equipped to serve Christ (Eph. 4:11-13).
11. 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, I Peter 5:1-5).
12. We covenant to set an example of life and join you in fulfilling the duties of church members (1 Co.11.1, Philip. 3:17, I Tim. 4:12).

With the guiding help of the Holy Spirit, I, the undersigned, covenant the following:

1. By God's grace I am a Christian trusts in Jesus Christ for salvation from the wrath of God for my sins. In response to God's grace and to the instruction of Jesus I have been baptized as a testimony of my identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. I have read and understood The Resolved Church doctrinal statement and agree to not be divisive if I disagree with any of its teachings. I understand the importance of submission to church leadership and will be diligent to preserve unity and peace (Hebrews 13:7, 17; Ephesians 4:1-3).
3. I will endeavor to maintain a close relationship with the Lord through regular personal Bible reading, prayer, fellowship and practice of the other spiritual disciplines. My journey in Christ will be evident through my regular participation in the corporate worship services, and involvement in a small group or class (Ps. 119:97, 105; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:23-25).
4. I will strive to properly manage the resources God has given me, including my time, body, gifts and talents, attitudes, finances and possessions (Eph.5:15-18; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:1-16; Gal 5:22-26; Proverbs 3:9-10). This includes regular giving to The Resolved Church that is sacrificial and cheerful (2 Corinthians 8&9).
5. I commit myself to the The Resolved Church family and agree to aid in fulfilling its missional purpose to both be and bring the gospel to San Diego.
6. I commit to discovering and using the spiritual gift(s) God has given me for the building up of the church, both at The Resolved Church and universally (I Pt. 4:10-11; Romans 12:1-8, 1Corinthians 12:7-31).
7. I covenant to practice the humility and sacrificial attitude of Christ by considering the needs of others (Philippians 2:1-11), not gossiping (Pr. 16:28, Matt.18: 15-17), and seeking spiritual friendships (Pr. 17:17; 1 Cor 15:33).
8. I covenant to have friendly Christian relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, but I will not function in leadership or as a member in another church family (Hebrews 13:17).
9. I covenant to neither be a member and serve as such out of guilt or in a way that abuses grace. Instead, I will strive to be glory driven, gospel-centered, and be part of building a gospel city within the city of San Diego.
10. I covenant to follow the biblical procedures of church discipline, and submit myself to discipline if the need should ever arise (Matt. 18:15-17, Gal. 6:1-5).
11. I covenant to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues (Psalm 119, 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

God enabling me, I will strive to consider my commitment to this Membership Covenant on a yearly basis. I understand that it is an evaluative tool, as well as an affirmation of my continuing conviction and purpose. My responsibility will be to notify the The Resolved Church leadership if at any time I can no longer commit to this covenant, or if I have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding The Resolved Church.

Date _____

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Address _____



The Resolved Church

P.O. Box 16714 - San Diego, CA 92176
(619) 393-1990 | www.theresolved.com
contact@theresolved.com