

# Rooted Member and Elder Covenant

Revised on 7.1.22

## Explanation of Membership Covenant and Affirmation

The Rooted Church Membership Covenant is birthed out of our love for the church body and its individual members whom we hope will experience the fullness of joy which can only be found as one walks in the presence of the Lord. The primary purpose of this covenant is to serve as a teaching document with three functions:

1. To clarify the biblical obligations and expectations for both the elders of Rooted Church and the individual members of the Rooted Church body.
2. To establish teaching and doctrinal parameters for the Rooted Church body.
3. To serve as a tool for reflection and growth toward holiness.

Each of these functions is intended to protect and build up the church.

## So, what Is the Church?

The church exists for the display of the glory of God because all things exist for His glory. Those of us who trust in and follow Jesus are caught up in something much bigger than ourselves. We have graciously been invited into God's redemptive purposes in the world.

Since the beginning, God has been creating and calling forth His people for the display of His glory in a grand narrative of redemption and reconciliation. Though creation now suffers the curse of Genesis 3, the gospel is the means by which the world is being made right. The gospel also carries with it the promise of ultimate renewal, a restoration even more glorious than Eden, and thus believers eagerly anticipate the return of Christ.

The Church universal (i.e., all believers, everywhere) is the means by which God is fulfilling His purposes in the world (2 Cor. 5:17-20). The Church universal is being used to write God's beautiful and dramatic story of redemption and reconciliation. In light of this reality, the opportunity to join a local church body (i.e., a particular group of believers in a particular community) is much more than a commitment to consistent attendance or active involvement in community. It is also a sacred call to be involved in the redemptive work of our sovereign God

to push back the darkness of a fallen world through the power of the Holy Spirit with the light of His Son, Jesus Christ.

The church is the gathering of the redeemed, the household of God (Eph. 2:19), the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2, 9) and the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-31). 1 Corinthians 12 speaks of many members within the same body. Just as a human body relies upon mutual dependence of individual members for proper functioning, so the body of Christ requires sacrificial and responsible service by its individual members. As the Scriptures say, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'" (1 Cor. 12:21). Likewise, a member of the church cannot say to another member that he or she is unnecessary. We all have gifts that differ according to the gracious provision of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:3-8).

Contrary to the beliefs of our culture, we need each other. Membership at Rooted Church is participation in a family, a microcosm of the universal household of God, an Embassy of the Kingdom. All members are united to Christ and thus to each other. Unity within the church is expressed in love for God and a love for others, both those within the family and those who are not. Because of the identification of Christ with His church, Christians are expected to display His gospel in a manner which is worthy of Him (Eph. 4:1).

### **So why do we Covenant?**

A covenant is generally defined as "a written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action." Within the Scriptures, we find a number of examples of covenants, some between God and man (Gen. 6, 9, 15; Ezek. 20; Hos. 2; Jer. 31; Matt. 26), while others are solely between men (1 Sam. 18; 2 Sam. 5).

In some covenants, one party binds his or herself to fulfill the obligations of both sides of the agreement. In others, the parties are reciprocally bound to adhere to the obligations. While God's covenant with the Church universal is an example of the former, the local church covenant represents the latter.

If at any time one of the parties of this church covenant continues in a state of unfaithfulness to its provisions, the other is released from certain obligations.

The Elders of Rooted Church covenant...

**to appoint elders and deacons (including staff members who serve in these offices) according to the criteria assigned to them in the Scriptures, and to continue to hold elders and deacons to accountable to these standards for as long as they serve** (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

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**to prayerfully seek God's will for our church community and steward her resources to the best of our ability based on our study of the Scriptures and following of the Spirit** (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

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**to care for the church and seek her growth in grace, truth and love** (Matt. 28:16-20; Eph. 4:15-16; Col. 1:28; James 5:14; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

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**to provide teaching and counsel from the whole of Scripture** (Acts 20:27-28; 1 Tim. 4:16; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 2:1).

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**to equip the members of the church for the work of ministry** (Eph. 4:11-16).

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**to be on guard against false teachers and teachings** (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 1 John 4:1).

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**to lovingly exercise discipline when necessary, for the glory of God, the good of the one disciplined and the health of the church as a whole** (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20).

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**to set an example and join members in fulfilling the obligations of church membership stated in the member affirmation** (Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7-8; 1 Pet. 5:3).

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Signature of Elders.

Date.

As a Member of Rooted Church, I covenant..

**to submit to the authority of the Scriptures as the final arbiter on all issues** (Ps. 119; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

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**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).

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**to follow the command and example of Jesus by participating in the ordinances prescribed to His Church:**

- by being or having been baptized after my conversion. (Acts 2:38, 41)
  - by regularly remembering and celebrating the person and work of Christ through communion. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
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**to regularly participate in the life of Rooted Church by attending weekly services, engaging in family groups and serving those within and outside of this church** (Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25; Titus 3:14).

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**to steward the resources God has given me, including time, talents, spiritual gifts and finances. This includes regular financial giving as well as service and participation in community that is sacrificial, cheerful and voluntary** (Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 8-9; 1 Pet. 4:10-11).

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**by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in holiness in all areas of life as an act of worship to Jesus Christ** (1 Pet. 1:13-16, 4:1-3).

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**to refrain from such activities that the Scriptures would deem foolish** (Rom. 14:14-23).

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**to take seriously the responsibility of Christian freedom, especially actions or situations that could present a stumbling block to another** (1 Cor. 8:1-13).

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**to submit to the elders and other appointed leaders of the church and diligently strive for unity and peace within the church** (Eph. 4:1-3; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 5:5).

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**to submit to the discipline of God through His Holy Spirit by:**

- following the biblical procedures for church discipline where sin is evident in another or in myself. The motivation for such discipline being repentance and restoration.
  - receiving righteous and loving discipline when approached biblically by fellow believers (Ps. 141:5; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; Heb. 12:5-11).
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**to do the following when I sin:**

- confess my sin to God and be transparent with fellow believers.
  - repent and seek help to put my sin to death (Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5; James 5:16; 1 John 1:6-10).
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**to do the following should I leave the church for righteous reasons:**

- to notify the church leaders of your upcoming transition.
- to seek another church with which I can carry out my biblical responsibilities as a believer.

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Signature of New Member/s

Date.